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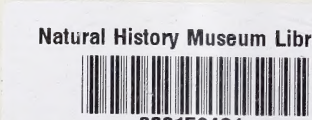

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THE

General Contents

OF THE

BRITISH MUSEUM.

The SECOND EDITION.

18. a.

THE

General Contents

OF THE

BRITISH MUSEUM:

WITH

REMARKS.

Serving as a

DIRECTORY

In Viewing that

Noble CABINET.

THE SECOND EDITION,
With ADDITIONS and IMPROVEMENTS, and a
COMPLETE INDEX.

Caſtor gaudet equis ; ovo prognatus eodem,
Pugnis : quot capitum vivunt, totidem ſtudiorum
Millia.

LONDON:
Printed for R. and J. DODSLEY, in *Pall-mall.*
MDCCLXII.

PREFACE.

AS I am quite ſenſible that ſomething will be expected by way of Preface to the following Sheets, I will not, by omitting it, diſappoint any of my Readers.

Curioſity almoſt univerſally prevails: Many therefore will, in all Probability, want to know my Reaſons for this Publication; why I have not been more full in my Deſcriptions, and more ſyſtematical in my Manner. Of theſe, as well as many other Particulars, the Reader ſhall be informed;

but I muſt firſt beſpeak his Patience, till ſomething is ſaid of the Muſeum itſelf.

It is difficult to determine, whether this Excellent Foundation reflects more Honour on his late Majeſty, who was pleaſed to beſtow on it a large and valuable Library, collected by his Royal Predeceſſors; on Sir *Hans Sloane*, who with great Knowledge, Expence, and Trouble, procured the moſt curious Part of what is here depoſited; or on the *Britiſh* Parliament, who made it a laſting Monument of Glory to the Nation. Certain it is, the Public is greatly indebted to them all, as well as to the Right Honourable and Honourable the Truſtees, and the Officers of the Houſe, by whoſe Superintendance it

is

is conducted under such wise Regulations, that it is as great in Perfection as it was in Design. The Officers are remarked for being a sensible and learned Set of Men, all equal to the Employment, being well versed in the Business of their several Departments, and at all Times willing to gratify the Curiosity of the Inquisitive, with any Information that can be required of them.

I am not without Hopes that the Time may soon come, when every public-spirited Collector of rare Medals, Minerals, Animals, Plants, Insects, or Stones, and, in fine, of every Thing that either Nature or Art produces, worthy the Observation of the Curious, will deposit the Produce of his Labour in this most valuable Ca-

binet. If he is of ample Fortune, the Public will accept of them as a Preſent, and convey his Name to the lateſt Poſterity; if, on the contrary, he is poor, though ingenious, ſuch is the Generoſity of this happy Nation, that I dare venture to ſay they will, on all ſuch Occaſions, according to the Merit of the Perſon, remove that great Obſtacle to Science, beſides affording him a proper Share of Honour.

Learning was for many Ages in a Manner buried in Oblivion; a dark Ignorance ſpread itſelf over the Face of the whole Earth; and, what was ſtill worſe, did any noble Spirit endeavour to rouze himſelf and others from the general Lethargy, he was preſently charged with publiſhing new Opinions,

nions, and perhaps branded with Infamy, under a Pretence of his attaching himſelf to the Study of the Magic Art. Indeed, numberleſs were the Obſtacles to the Reſurrection of Learning; a dark Ignorance, a blind Infatuation, an obſtinate Prejudice: Yet ſo hard a Matter is it to fetter the human Mind, that it roſe ſuperior to all Difficulties. Literature is once more recovered from its long Swoon, and now ſhines in its priſtine Luſtre: Nay, there are in theſe our happy Times many Things generally known, of which the Ancients had not the leaſt Notion; and many others by them only gueſſed at, or known in Theory, which we have reduced to a mathematical Certainty.

Nothing can conduce more to preſerve the Learning which this latter Age abounds with, than having Repoſitories in every Nation to contain its Antiquities, ſuch as is the Muſeum of *Britain:* But, in order more effectually to prevent our falling back again into a State of Ignorance and Barbariſm, it were to be wiſhed that the Plan of it were enlarged, that the Buildings were more extenſive, and that a Fund were eſtabliſhed, ſufficient to anſwer the Purpoſe of encouraging ingenious Men in every uſeful Art, in every Science; and I know of nothing that can be done that will tend more to the Honour of our Country, when it ſhall pleaſe God to give us the Bleſſing of Peace, than to have ſuch a large Fund appropriated for the Encouragement of Ingenuity and Learning.

ing. When we read over the Liſt of the Names that compoſe the Royal Society, the Truſtees of this Muſeum, and that numerous Train of *Britons*, who wiſh ſo much to encourage every Art, Science, and Manufacture, can we poſſibly be at a loſs for Truſtees to manage with Impartiality and Propriety a more general Eſtabliſhment? I could mention ſeveral, every way qualified, who would have too much public Spirit to refuſe undertaking it, if invited by their Country to the Truſt. From the united Labours of ſuch a Society, what might we not hope for? Modeſt Merit would once more raiſe its drooping Head, aſſured of a candid Hearing from ſuch able Judges; every Manufacture would ſoon be brought to the greateſt Perfection, Agriculture be held in proper

Eſteem, and the Sciences more than flouriſh; for it would even be unfaſhionable to be illiterate. But this is a Point of too great Importance to be brought to bear without the Interpoſition of Parliament; it is ſincerely to be wiſhed they may at a proper Time take it under their Conſideration; no Age is ſo likely as the preſent, in which ſo much Encouragement is given, in moſt Things that are worthy of Praiſe: Yet, though they are encouraged, a regular Eſtabliſhment for the Purpoſe is certainly much wanted.

Should the Hints I have here given be of any Uſe to the Community, my Pleaſure would be compleat; and, were I called upon, I could ſubmit a Plan, that would not, I flatter myſelf, be

be totally imperfect. But I have dwelt long enough on this Subject for the present, and now proceed to gratify the Curiosity of my Readers, by saying something of the following Pages.

The Purchasers of this little Work must not expect too much, it not being meant to give a particular Account of all the Contents of this noble Cabinet: That is reserved for other Pens, being, as I am informed, to be published by the Officers of the House at a proper Time, and will consist of many Volumes in Folio. What I here present to the Public, are only a few Remarks on the general Contents, without enlarging too much on any Thing. A Regularity of Method is observed; for my Reader will find himself accompanied through all the

Rooms

Rooms in the ſame Order they are ſhewn: The general Heads are given; and he is directed in his Choice of a few Objects moſt worthy Remark under each Title: So that, upon the whole, I can offer it as a Kind of Directory to thoſe who are inclined to ſee the Muſeum; it will likewiſe ſerve to give a tolerable Idea of the Contents to thoſe who have no Opportunity of ſeeing it, and to refreſh the Memory, where perhaps it hath been viewed in a curſory Manner.

Among the Numbers whom Curioſity prompted to get a Sight of this Collection, I was of Courſe one; but the Time allowed to view it was ſo ſhort, and the Rooms ſo numerous, that it was impoſſible, without ſome Kind of Directory, to form a proper Idea

Idea of the Particulars : And though I was far from being unacquainted with moſt of the Contents before they became the Property of the Public, muſt confeſs myſelf to have been at ſome loſs in this Reſpect. The Officers, indeed, were always extremely attentive ; but it was ſtill impoſſible for them to gratify every particular Perſon's Curioſity. Upon mentioning this to ſome of my intimate Friends, I found that the Complaint was general, and was ſollicited to write ſomething that might be of Uſe to remove theſe Difficulties. I rather declined the Undertaking, urging that it would come with more Propriety from the Officers of the Houſe : But this Objection, I was told, had little Weight, as it was impoſſible for them to do it, becauſe whatever came from

that

that Quarter muſt be full and perfect; that a full and perfect Account would be bulky, and of courſe dear; but that the Public wanted ſomething conciſe and cheap. Convinced thus by Truth, I ſubmitted to the Taſk, and the more readily, as I have always had a particular Bent to the Study of Natural Hiſtory, and conſequently did not look upon myſelf as totally unqualified.

I muſt take this Opportunitty of acknowledging what I owe to ſeveral Gentlemen, who gave me Notes they had taken on viewing it, which enabled me to purſue a more regular Plan, than otherwiſe I could have done: But particularly my Thanks are due to one, who greatly aſſiſted me, which he was the more qualified

to

to do, as having been intimately acquainted with Sir *Hans Sloane*, to whom he gave many of the curious Matters contained in the Muſeum, collected by himſelf in his Travels.

I muſt not forget a Lady, who gave me ſome curious Remarks on the recent Shells; and am ſorry, from the Nature of the Work, it was impoſſible for me to make much Uſe of them, as they would have taken up too much Room.

I know it is impoſſible to pleaſe every body, conſequently have no Doubt but much Fault will be found with this little Performance. Some will think I have paſſed too ſlightly over the Freſco Paintings; or that I might have ſaid more of the Portraits, than

than juſt giving their Names. Many will imagine I have not been attentive enough to the Manuſcripts or Medals; and others, perhaps, would have wiſhed me to have filled twenty Pages with a Deſcription of the Mole Cricket. Thus every one would have been moſt pleaſed I ſhould have enlarged on that Subject which beſt ſuited his particular Taſte. I have taken the mean Way, having ſaid ſomething of every Thing, much of nothing. It was not at all neceſſary to be more particular in the Account of the ſeveral Articles compriſed under the general Titles: I mean only ſo far to lead my Reader, that he may with Eaſe find the Matter treated of in viewing the Collection, and there make his own Obſervations on the Nature and Properties of it; and

if

if he has not that Opportunity, by conſulting the Writers on Natural Hiſtory, his Curioſity will perhaps in part be ſatisfied. Had I not been ſtrongly urged to the Undertaking, and was I not fully ſenſible, that ſomething of the Kind is much wanting, this Trifle had never been publiſhed. If it is uſeful, I am ſatisfied: It is a Vanity for any one to think of meeting with univerſal Approbation. The judicious Reader will obſerve, that I have endeavoured to be as intelligible as poſſible, making uſe of very few Words but what are generally underſtood: I therefore flatter myſelf, that my Readers among the Ladies will be very numerous, many of them having, in my Company, lamented the Want of ſomething of this Kind, to direct their Obſervations

tions, and give them a general Idea of the Contents of this Collection.

I cannot omit this Opportunity of expreſſing my Thankfulneſs for the Candour with which the firſt Edition of this little Work has been received by the Public; but I muſt own myſelf in a particular Manner obliged to the Officers of the Muſeum, who, though they had it conſtantly in their Power to expoſe any little Inaccuracies, with which a Work of this Nature, publiſhed by any body but themſelves, muſt abound, ſtill refrained from doing it: I have even been informed, they allow it ſome Degree of Merit. The Reader will find this Edition much enlarged and improved in many Particulars, which need not be pointed out, as they will be

be very obvious on the firſt Peruſal, and it is printed in a Duodecimo, to make it more conveniently portable in the Pocket. That it may ſtill approach nearer to Perfection, the Author has been at the pains of forming a complete Index to it, which muſt unqueſtionably be of great Uſe, as the Reader will thereby be enabled to find out in the Book any Title he pleaſes, and many curious Specimens, of which he may chuſe to ſee ſome ſhort Account. Some of the Purchaſers of the firſt Edition complained it was too long to be read in the Time allowed to view the whole Muſeum; ſuch may be anſwered, that it was not intended to be read there; the grand Difficulty was to keep it in a ſmall Compaſs, yet make it in ſome Meaſure ſatisfactory. The

moſt

moſt eligible Method is certainly to read theſe Sheets with ſome Attention at Home; by this Means a tolerable Idea may be formed of the Contents of this valuable Collection, and the Reader is directed to apply his particular Attention to that Part of the Muſeum that ſuits his Taſte, viewing the reſt only in a curſory Manner, by doing this he will have more Satisfaction, and his Curioſity will be much more gratified, than if he wanders from Object to Object, without ſuffering any Thing to claim his immediate Notice.

Some of my Readers may be ignorant of the Manner of applying to ſee the Muſeum; for their Information I ſhall add, that fifteen Perſons are allowed to view it in one Company; the

the Time allotted is two Hours; and when any Number not exceeding fifteen are inclined to ſee it, they muſt ſend a Liſt of their Chriſtian and Sirnames, Additions, and Places of Abode, to the Porter's Lodge, in order to their being entered in the Book; in a few Days the reſpective Tickets will be made out, ſpecifying the Day and Hour in which they are to come, which, on being ſent for, are delivered. If by any Accident ſome of the Parties are prevented from coming, it is proper they ſend their Ticket back to the Lodge, as no body can be admitted with it but themſelves. It is to be remarked, that the fewer Names there are in a Liſt, the ſooner they are likely to be admitted to ſee it.

THE

THE GENERAL CONTENTS, &c.

SECTION I.

CONSCIOUS of the Uprightneſs of my Intentions, meaning only to oblige the Public, I ſhall attempt to conduct the curious Obſerver through the ſeveral Departments of the *Britiſh Muſeum*, which are three in Number; the Department of Manuſcripts, Medals, and Coins; that of Natural and Artificial Productions; and the Department of printed Books; beſides many Articles in the Hall, in the firſt Room above Stairs, and other Places, which are not comprehended in any particular Department.

It is not neceſſary, in this ſmall Work, to ſay much of *Montague-Houſe*, in which

this choice and valuable Collection is depoſited; it was well known before the Death of the late Noble Owner of it, and is fit for the Purpoſe for which it is made uſe of: I ſhall therefore omit any particular Deſcription, and content myſelf with only taking a ſlight Notice of the Freſco Paintings in their proper Places.

To begin my Remarks with the Contents of the Hall, I ſhall, in Honour of our own Iſlands, firſt take Notice of ſeven Blocks of very hard Marble of an hexangular Form: They were brought from an amazing Production of Nature, as moſt Antiquaries are of opinion, though others call it a Work of Art, near *Coleraine* in *Ireland*, where there are many Thouſands of ſuch Pillars, angular and contiguous, but not joined. The common People of the Country call them the Giants Cauſeway, from an old Tradition that they were placed in that Order by the ancient Inhabitants of the Iſland, who were of a gigantic Stature. They project a great

Way

Way into the Sea, and the Stones are of the Nature of thoſe called Baſaltes or Baſanus. It may be concluded that the Giants Cauſeway is entirely the Work of Nature, as many ſuch Pillars or Columns were found by the Ancients in *Æthiopia*, of the ſame angular Form as thoſe in *Ireland*, and by them called Baſaltes; they met with it in Fragments of Columns in the River *Tmolus*, and ſome other Places, when they gave it the Name of *Lapis Lydius*, not conceiving it to be the ſame as the Baſaltes found in Pillars. We have it frequently in *Spain*, *Germany*, *Ruſſia*, and *Denmark*, and about *Dreſden* is much of it in fine Columns. Wherever it is found, on being analyſed by Acids, it proves to be compoſed of an Admixture of Cryſtal, Spar, and Earth. It is now uſed for trying Gold, *&c.* and is called the Touch-ſtone. The Church of *Ballywellan*, in the Neighbourhood of *Coleraine*, is built of this Kind of Marble, found in the adjacent Hills.

The *Romans*, as they excelled all other Nations in the Magnificence of their public Buildings, ſo did they likewiſe in the Roads they from time to time made, which were for the moſt part paved very regularly with ſquare Stones, and often extended for a great Number of Miles. We have the Remains of ſeveral in *England*, where they are called Streets, as *Ickenild-ſtreet*, *Ermin-ſtreet*, *Watlin-ſtreet*, and others. They are in many Places viſible, and appear like a Cauſeway.

There is in this Hall to be ſeen a Stone that was brought from the *(Via Appia) Appian* Road, which led from *Rome* to *Brunduſium*. *Appius* had the Honour of making it for the Uſe of the People of *Rome*.

You alſo ſee here two Fragments of Granite Columns, (a hard kind of Marble which does not take a good Poliſh; many other Stones have the ſame Quality) ſome curious Pebbles, and two antique Heads

Heads called *Termini*, being uſed by the *Romans* as Landmarks.

A large Piece of ſerpentine Marble is next to be noticed: It was called *Ophites*, from its Reſemblance to a Serpent's Skin. This Specimen has a duſky-brown Ground ſtreaked with green and pale yellow. This is a hard kind of Marble, of an even Structure, and takes a fine Poliſh. There are ſeveral Species of the *Ophites*; the Ancients had the black and the white *Ophites* diſtinguiſhed by the different Colour of their Spots, whoſe Ground was green, and the grey *Ophites* diſtinguiſhed by its Ground Colour, which was pale-grey. We have the greyiſh-brown *Ophites* with green Spots, ſometimes ſaid to be found in *England*, and the pale-grey *Ophites* with green Spots and Veins. The *Ophites* has been celebrated for its Virtues againſt venomous Bites, and is at this Time worn in ſome Parts of the World as an Amulet. It is ranked among the Jaſpers.

The Country round Mount *Veſuvius* abounds with a kind of Stone, which in its Eruptions iſſues from it in great Abundance in Form of a burning Rivulet, deſtroying every Thing in its Way: When the Eruption ceaſes, this Subſtance as it cools hardens, and is called *Lava:* It is a very hard Stone, takes a fine Poliſh, and is fit for many Uſes, being frequently manufactured into Boxes, Tables, *&c.* It is ſo plentiful, that in *Naples* the Inhabitants very commonly make uſe of it for paving the Streets. There is a fine large cubic Piece of this *Lava* preſerved in the Hall.

In another Part is a painted genealogical Tree of a Noble *Venetian* Family; and, beſides all I have mentioned, there are a great Number of Epitaphs and Inſcriptions (on the original Stones, by Accident found) in *Latin*, *Greek*, and other Languages.

There is a fine Skeleton of a Unicorn Fiſh; this is a large Fiſh of the Whale Kind;

Kind; ſome of the Horns of this Fiſh are from ten to fifteen Feet in Length, are all white, and furrowed with a ſpiral Line. Theſe Horns are commonly found in the *Daniſh* and neighbouring Seas, inſomuch that there was a magnificent Throne built of them in that Kingdom.

We muſt take Notice in this Place of the Head of a very particular Kind of Buffalo; it is covered with long Wool, inſtead of Hair; the Beaſt is a Native of *Newfoundland*, and has its Body in the ſame Manner covered with long Wool, reaching almoſt to its Feet, inſomuch that when alive, it reſembles a moving Bundle of Wool, looſely tyed together.

The Staircaſe and ſome of the Cielings are ornamented with good Freſco Paintings, of which I ſhall enter into no long Deſcription. On the Side of the Staircaſe, *Cæſar* and his military Retinue are ſeen, with the Chiefs of the Provinces he had in part ſubdued attending on him,

and others on their Knees, imploring his Protection or Aſſiſtance.

In a Compartment are the *Bacchanalia*, or Feaſts and Sacrifices of *Bacchus*.

In another the Rivers *Nile* and *Tiber* are repreſented by gigantic Figures emblematically ornamented: And there are Views of beautiful Landſcapes at a Diſtance, and ſeveral fine Pieces of Architecture.

On the Ceiling the Story of *Phaeton* repreſents itſelf: The Gods are aſſembled, and the Youth appears aſking *Phœbus* to permit him to drive his Chariot for a Day; he conſents, and in another Part is ſeen conducting him to the Chariot: *Diana* is near them, and *Juno* is attended by *Iris*.

Farther on, *Phaeton*, with all the Ardour of Youth, is driving the Sun's Chariot, accompanied by the Hours in the Form of Women. Time is repreſented by *Saturn*, with a Scythe and an Hour-Glaſs; and Eternity by a Woman holding a Serpent, with the Tail in its Mouth.

Cybele,

Cybele, or the Goddeſs of the Earth, appears alſo, with all her proper Symbols and Ornaments.

As you go up Stairs, the Buſto of Sir *Hans Sloane*, on a Pedeſtal, preſents itſelf immediately to your View.

In the firſt Room, the Story of *Phaeton* is compleated on the Dome. The Gods are aſſembled, and whilſt *Jupiter* is caſting his Thunderbolts at *Phaeton* falling from the Chariot, you ſee *Saturn*, *Apollo*, *Mars*, *Neptune*, *Juno*, *Diana*, *Venus*, *Cupid*, *Mercury*, *Minerva*, and *Bacchus*, in various Attitudes, and agitated by different Paſſions, as they were ſeverally intereſted in the great Event.

The Hiſtories are ſaid to be painted by *La Foſſe*; the Flowers, and ſome of the ornamental Parts, by *Battiſte*; and the Architecture and Landſcapes by *Rouſſeau*, whoſe Portrait is ſeen in this Room.

I cannot take a better Opportunity to mention, that there are many Portraits of illuſtrious Perſonages, hung up in the

ſeveral Departments of this *Muſeum*; they are all Preſents, and continually increaſing in Number: It will not be improper to give the Reader the Names of the chief of them in this Place, that my future Remarks may not be interrupted. They are as follows:

Edward the Third.
Henry the Fifth.
Henry the Sixth.
Henry the Eighth.
Charles the Firſt.
Charles the Second.
William the Third.
George the Firſt.
Queen *Elizabeth.*
Mary Queen of *Scots.*
Queen *Henrietta Maria.*
Peter the Great, Czar of *Muſcovy.*
Coſmo de Medicis, and *Bartolo Concini.*
Oliver Cromwell.
The Counteſs of *Richmond.*
The Duke of *Marlborough.*
The Duke of *Monmouth.*

Robert

Robert Earl of *Salisbury.*
Lord Treasurer *Burghley.*
Archbishop *Usher.*
Dr. *Turner*, Bishop of *Ely.*
Cardinal *Sforza.*
Mr. *Locke.*
Dr. *Wallis.*
Richard Baxter.
Sir *Robert Cotton.*
Sir *John Cotton.*
Mr. *Speed.*
Camden.
Judge *Dodderidge.*
Sir *William Dugdale.*
Sir *Anthony More.*
Sir *Henry Vane.*
Sir *Henry Spelman.*
Ben. Johnson.
Shakespeare.
Lord Chancellor *Bacon.*
Ludowick Muggleton.
Sir *Francis Draper.*
Dr. *John Ward.*
Anna Maria Shurman.
Captain *Willis.*

Dampier.
Voltaire.
Andreas Vaſſalius.
Ulyſſes Aldrovandus.

There are Buſts of

Homer.
Sir *Thomas More.*
Dr. *Samuel Clarke.*

This Room is ſet apart for the immediate Reception of Preſents, and contains ſeveral very curious Articles, given by Colonel *Lethullier*, his Brothers, and other Benefactors.

I ſhall firſt mention an *Egyptian* Mummy, which is depoſited in a Glaſs Caſe, in one Corner of the Room, as its Coffin is in the other.

The *Egyptians* believed the Exiſtence of the human Soul after its quitting the Body; which may fairly be concluded from its being the general received Opinion among them, that the Spirit which animated the Body whilſt alive, continually hovered around it after the Diſunion; they

they thought it affected by the Injuries the inanimate Corpſe might receive, or by its Corruption; it was therefore with the greateſt Care they endeavoured to preſerve the material Man from Decay, that the immaterial Soul, which had ſo long been its Companion, might thereby be inſpired with a kind of pleaſing Idea of its former Union.

To accompliſh this End, they had a Set of Men in their Nation, whoſe peculiar Buſineſs it was to embalm the Dead; which was performed three ſeveral Ways: The firſt was for the common People, and conſiſted only of ſalting the viſcerated Body after a particular Manner, having firſt cleanſed it from all Impurities, drying it either by a natural or artificial Heat, and finally placing it in a plain Sycamore Coffin. It is to be noted, that the Coffins they uſed on theſe Occaſions were never made of any other Wood, that being eſteemed moſt durable and leaſt ſubject to Decay; but it was a Species of Syca-

more

more differing from any we have growing in *Europe*.

The next Method, which was for thoſe of a higher Rank, was embalming them with a kind of reſinous or bitumenous Subſtance, properly mixed with cheap and ordinary Drugs. Some ſay that on this Occaſion they uſed much of the Aſphaltus, or Jews Pitch, a bitumenous or reſinous Subſtance which is found ſwimming on the Surface of the Dead Sea in *Judea*. Theſe were put in a better kind of Sycamore Coffins, painted with various Colours; and ſome of them ornamented with a Number of curious Hieroglyphics, on which their Superſtition prompted them to have great Reliance, imagining that they helped to preſerve the Body from Corruption. The Mummy here preſerved is of this kind.

The laſt and moſt expenſive Method by which the *Egyptians* preſerved the dead Bodies of their Friends from Decay, was reſerved for thoſe of a very eminent Station.

tion. They too were depoſited in Coffins of Sycamore Wood, but ornamented with Gold, and Hieroglyphics of the moſt noble kind.

The moſt probable Account of this laſt Method that can be collected from the Writers who have treated of the Subject, is, that when the Soul was departed, the Brains were firſt extracted, perhaps thro' the Noſtrils, and the Corpſe viſcerated in a very curious Manner, without injuring the outward Surface of the Body, which was thoroughly well cleanſed. They next proceeded to fill the Cavities with bituminous and aromatic Subſtances properly prepared and mixed: On this Occaſion particularly the moſt precious and coſtly Gums, Balſams and Spices, were uſed; a Liquid having been in the mean time prepared, in which a great Quantity of the above Subſtances had been diſſolved, they next boiled the Body therein, that the moſt remote part of every Muſcle might be ſtrongly impregnated with the

embalming

embalming Quality. Nothing now remained but to dry the Body, (the Method of doing which is not with Certainty known) and wrap it round with Bandages of Linen Cloth, and the Bark Papyrus, filling up the hollow Parts, and ſometimes the Cavity of the Belly, with ſmall earthen Figures, in the Form of Mummies, but with the Head of *Oſiris* or *Iſis*, and impreſſed with various Hieroglyphics, or having on them the Figures of Beetles, which they ſuperſtitiouſly thought were Protectors of the Dead *(Prophylacteria)*. Having thus finiſhed their Work, they depoſited it in the Coffin, which had before been excavated in the Form of the Mummy to receive it.

The Face of the Mummy here preſerved is covered with a gilded Maſk; near its Feet is a Skull, and ſeveral Bones, *viz.* Feet and Hands, taken from a broken Mummy, which ſhews the State in which theſe embalmed Bodies are preſerved from Decay. Over its Head are

ſome

ſome of thoſe ſmall earthen Idols, which are already mentioned to be put by the Embalmers into the Cavities of the Body: Great Numbers of them are dug out of the Ground on the Eaſt Side of the River *Nile*, near *Cairo* in *Egypt*, being the Spot where the Mummies were depoſited.

On the Breaſt of the Coffin (it being of the Shape of a Mummy) is a Figure repreſenting the Goddeſs *Iſis*, the Flowers of the Water-lilly *(Lotus)* round its Neck; and over the whole Foreſide is a very great Variety of Hieroglyphics, Figures rudely deſigned, and *Egyptian* Characters, only underſtood by their Prieſts and learned Men, but which the Antiquaries of theſe later Times can no ways explain. On the Back of the Coffin, (which may be turned at Pleaſure) is another Figure of *Iſis*, having an Ibis on her head. The Ibis was a Bird of Prey, held in great Veneration by the *Egyptians*, becauſe it deſtroyed the Vermin that were yearly produced by the overflowing of the *Nile*: When it died,

they

they depoſited it in an Urn, and cemented a Cover on it. Over the Coffin is a ſquare Caſe, in which they placed ſome Utenſils belonging to the Deceaſed, and depoſited it near the Body; as alſo two Models of a Mummy, one of which they put near the Coffin at the Head, the other at the Feet.

In *Poland* are at this Time found natural Mummies, preſerved without the Aſſiſtance of Art. They are met with in Caverns, are of a blackiſh Colour, with the Fleſh and Skin ſhrunk almoſt cloſe to the Bones: It was, ſome Centuries ago, common in the Wars, for the weaker Party to retire into ſuch Caves, where they were often ſuffocated by the Enemy, and are now found in the ſtate abovementioned. Human Bodies, reſembling theſe laſt, are ſaid to be often met with in the Deſerts of *Arabia*.

An Urn of the Ibis, and ſeveral *Egyptian* Idols in Bronze, are over the Mummy: I ſhall firſt mention *Oſiris*. It is the Figure

Figure of a Man, the Body in the Shape of a Mummy, with a three-corner'd Cap on its Head, a Whip in one Hand, and a Lituus (a Staff not unlike a Crozier) in the other. *Isis* is figured by a Woman, with the Infant *Orus* in her Lap: They repreſent her variouſly, but for the moſt part with a large Veil on her Head. *Orus*, or *Harpocrates*, their Son, is the Figure of a young Man, holding the Fore-finger of his Left Hand on his Lips, to enforce Silence as the greateſt Mark of Prudence, and a reverential Awe for the Divinity.

Oſiris, who was one of the firſt Kings of *Egypt*, and *Iſis*, his Wife, by their ſuperior Talents, as well by Example as Precept, civilized *Egypt*, and all the neighbouring Nations. Their Fame was ſpread far and near, inſomuch that when they died, Gratitude, joined to the Ignorance of the Times, prompted their Subjects to pay them Divine Honours, and worſhip them as Deities, and their ſupreme Bene-

factors;

factors; imagining that they, who in Knowledge and Goodneſs ſo much ſurpaſſed the reſt of Mankind, could not poſſibly be of the ſame Nature with them.

Many have been the Suggeſtions with reſpect to the Symbols they bear, but they are all arbitrary, and may be variouſly interpreted.

Oſiris, *Iſis*, and *Orus*, or *Harpocrates*, held the firſt Rank among the Gods of the *Egyptians*, but *Iſis* was in the greateſt Eſteem; for the Worſhip they paid her was much more frequent, and her Feaſts more ſolemn than thoſe of the others. The *Greeks* and *Romans*, it is imagined, ſacrificed to the ſame Gods, under different Names.

The *Egyptians* had the greateſt Veneration imaginable for Cats, inſomuch that they inflicted moſt ſevere Puniſhments on thoſe who were unfortunate enough to kill one of them, whether on Purpoſe, or by Accident. They often repreſented

Ailurus,

Ailurus, one of their Gods, under the Figure of a Cat.

In this Room are alſo ſome natural Productions; as ſeveral large Corals, a Subſtance produced in the Sea, but in what Manner is not yet determined by the Naturaliſts. It was long thought to be a Kind of Vegetable, but is now generally conjectured to be the Cells of ſome Sea Inſects.

Keratophyta, a Species of Coral: The Specimen here preſerved is vulgarly called a Sea Fan.

Sertularia, another Species: This is commonly called a Sea Feather.

Madrepora, a kind of Coral, with ſmall ſtellated or radiated Perforations.

Millepora, the ſame, with round Perforations.

In one of the Repoſitories is a curious large Brainſtone, which is of the Nature of Coral, and ſuppoſed to be the Neſt of the Inſects above-mentioned. It is not neceſſary to ſay more of the Corals in this Place,

Place, as there will be occaſion to mention them again, when we come to the Departments.

There is a very fine Waſp's Neſt preſerved in one of the Cabinets, well worth obſerving with Attention, being a moſt curious Structure.

In Spirits you ſee a Vultur's Head, ſome Serpents, Birds, Spiders, Lizards, and other Articles; but what muſt attract particular Notice, is a fine young Flamingo ſtuffed. This Bird is very frequent in the *Weſt Indies*, and has a remarkable long Neck and Legs, which enables it to reach its Prey, which is Fiſh, in deep Water. It has webbed Feet, the Beak is broad, the upper Chap bent, depreſſed, and dentated, the lower much thicker and firmer; its Neck and Body are white, the flight Feathers of the Wing black, the ſhorter Feathers of a fine bright red. This Bird is ſometimes ſeen in *Europe*, and was well known to the Ancients, among whom the nice Eaters accounted

accounted its Tongue a very great Delicacy. It is of a gregarious Nature, and generally appears in large Numbers; they range themſelves ſometimes on the Sea Shore in ſuch regular Order, as to have, at a Diſtance, a great Reſemblance to a Brick Wall. I muſt not omit mentioning in this Place a fine Jay, brought from the *Eaſt Indies*. After having pointed out to my Reader the Back-bone of an Elephant petrified, I ſhall quit this, and lead him to the next Room.

The Saloon is finely ornamented with Freſco Paintings, conſiſting of Architecture, Stair-caſes, Flowers, Statues, and other Things properly arranged.

The Dome is ſupported by ſeveral Atlantes, and on it is repreſented a Council of the Heathen Gods: *Minerva* appears moſt conſpicuous; the others, with their Attendants, ſeem variouſly employed.

In the different Compartments,

The Giants are turned out of Heaven.

Mercury

Mercury is ſeen ready to receive his Orders, as Meſſenger of the Gods.

In another appears *Ceres* and *Neptune*, *Pan* and *Amphitrite*.

Phaeton is repreſented driving the Chariot of *Phœbus*, preceded by *Aurora*, and properly attended by the Hours.

In this Room, on a Table, is a fine Model of *Laocoon* and his two Sons, encircled with Serpents, as deſcribed by *Virgil:* It is an excellent Copy of a favourite Piece of Sculpture at *Belvidere* in *Rome*.

This Saloon is appropriated for the Reception of Company that happen to come before the Hour mentioned in their Tickets; who, after having viewed the Articles contained in the Hall, and firſt Room already mentioned, and the Paintings, cannot ſpend their Time diſagreeably here; as from the Windows you have not only an agreeable View of the Gardens belonging to the Houſe, which are far from being inelegant, but a delightful Proſpect of the Hills and high Grounds

Grounds of *Hampſtead*, *Highgate*, and the adjacent Places.

We now enter upon the Departments; the firſt of which conſiſts of a Collection of Manuſcripts, Medals, and Coins.

The firſt Room contains two ſeveral Collections of Manuſcripts.

Bibliotheca Regia MSS.

Theſe Manuſcripts are in Number upwards of two thouſand Volumes, and were, till lately, kept in the King's Library, being a Part of the Preſent his late Majeſty made to the Muſeum.

There are in this Collection ſome very ancient Copies of the holy Scriptures, and Tranſlations of them into many different oriental and other Languages. Theſe are ſcarce, and valuable, conſequently well worthy the Attention of the learned Antiquary.

Some old and curious Manuſcripts, treating on the Subject of Religion, and

of the different Confeſſions of Faith, in various Languages, claim our Notice.

I muſt next juſt mention ſome large Volumes of Hiſtory, finely wrote, and ornamented in a moſt elegant Manner with Paintings, as was the Cuſtom before Printing was invented.

There are alſo a great Number of Manuſcripts relating to the Hiſtory and Government of the Church, and other curious Subjects; but it is unneceſſary to be more particular, as a Catalogue of them was publiſhed in 1734, by *Caſley*.

Bibliotheca Cottoniana MSS.

The *Cottonian* Collection of Manuſcripts is alſo contained in this Room; it is ancient and noble, conſiſting of original Charters, Deeds, and Evidences of Facts, and ſome Accounts of remarkable Tranſactions previous to the ſettling of our preſent Civil Rights, and long before the Reformation of Religion.

There

There are many ancient Copies of ſeveral Parts of the Bible, and Originals of ſome Works that were formerly held in great Eſteem among the Eccleſiaſtics.

But what is more particularly to be admired, is an original of that great Bulwark of our Liberties, the *Magna Charta*; and if ſo, how can we ſufficiently lament its having been greatly injured by an accidental Fire that damaged the whole Collection. As a Catalogue has alſo been publiſhed of theſe Manuſcripts, I need not any longer detain my Reader in this Room, but proceed to the next, which contains,

BIBLIOTHECA HARLEIANA MSS.

Theſe are a Part of the *Harleian* Manuſcripts, which are a Collection on which we cannot eaſily ſet too high a Value. The Room we are now treating of, contains many curious Copies of the Bible, and the different Parts of it, in a Variety of Languages.

Some original Manuſcripts, treating of Divinity and Eccleſiaſtical Matters, ſuch as Paraphraſes, Homilies, Commentaries, Rituals, *&c.* written at different Periods of Time, and deſcribing the ſeveral Sects of Chriſtianity diſperſed in all Parts of the World where it has been eſtabliſhed.

Alcorans, and other *Turkiſh* Books, with ſome hiſtorical Accounts of the Riſe of *Mahometaniſm.*

A *Thorah*, the five Books of *Moſes*, finely wrote in *Hebrew* on a Vellum Roll, ſuch as the *Jews* uſed to have in every Synagogue, when it was found very correct. It was not uſual for them to produce it but on certain ſolemn Occaſions.

In this Room is a Series of *Engliſh* Medals, beginning with *William Rufus*, and reaching down to the preſent Times.

BIBLIOTHECA HARLEIANA. II.

This Room contains another Part of the *Harleian* Manuſcripts, treating chiefly of philoſophical, hiſtorical, and philological

cal Subjects, in a Variety of Languages, and by many different Authors. The Public has been gratified with a Catalogue of this Collection, to which, without enlarging any more on the Subject, I refer them, if they ſhould be curious to know the particular Contents.

HARLEIANA. III.
CHARTÆ & ROTULI.

This fourth Room of the Department contains the *Harleian* Collection of original (or very ancient and authentic Copies of) Charters, Acts of Parliament, Deeds, Warrants, Rolls, and other Inſtruments in Writing, relative to a great Variety of public Tranſactions at home and abroad. Theſe are eſteemed very valuable, and are carefully depoſited in Cabinets, and locked up; but there is a large Manuſcript Catalogue referring the Curious to the Particulars.

In this Room is a Series of *French* Medals, beginning with thoſe of *Pharamond.*

mond. It is to be noted, that the Medals may, by turning a Button, be viewed both in Front and Reverſe.

In the fifth Room is carefully preſerved in ſeveral ſmall Cabinets, Sir *Hans Sloane*'s Collection of Medals. Their Number, as I have been credibly informed, is upwards of twenty thouſand; but, as they are not yet properly arranged, the Public is not gratified with the Sight of them.

I cannot take a better Opportunity of informing the unlearned Reader, that Medals and Coins are generally ſmall round Pieces of ſome of the more valuable Kind of Metals: On one Side is, for the moſt Part, the Head of an Emperor, King, or other great Man, whoſe Memory is meant to be perpetuated; round the Rim is a Legend giving the Name of the Hero, and ſometimes on the ſame Side is a Motto *(exergum)* added: On the Reverſe is generally the Repreſentation or a Symbol of ſome remarkable Fact or Quality, or elſe it has other Inſcriptions on it.

A Medal to be valuable ſhould be ſcarce; ſhould point out ſome extraordinary Event; or have a great Singularity in the Reverſe; but above all, it muſt be an Original, which very often is not the Caſe with ſome that are in high Eſtimation. Medals and Coins are of two Kinds, ancient and modern: The ancient Medals are again ſubdivided, into thoſe of the higher and thoſe of the lower Antiquity: The ancient of the higher Antiquity comprehend all thoſe that were ſtruck before the Beginning of the fourth Century; thoſe of the lower Antiquity are what were ſtruck from that Period of Time to the Beginning of the tenth Century. All that have been ſtruck ſince are eſteemed modern.

Every Collector of Medals is ambitious to get thoſe that are moſt valuable, ſcarce, and rareſt to be met with; conſequently the *Punic*, *Hebrew*, *Gothic*, and *Arabic*, are univerſally ſought, very few of them being preſerved.

The *Greek* Medals are the moſt ancient, as well as the moſt beautiful, the Figures of them being remarkably neat, and conſtantly admired, far exceeding in Workmanſhip any that are to be met with.

Thoſe of *Rome* are of three Periods; firſt, what were ſtruck in the Time the City was governed by Conſuls, therefore called Conſular; next, the Imperial, or thoſe ſtruck after *Julius Cæſar*, during the Reigns of the ſeveral Emperors that ſucceeded him; and laſtly, the Pontifical, which have been in late Times ſtruck by Order of the Popes. Theſe laſt in the firſt Ages were of little Value.

Medallions, called by the *Romans Miſſilia*, partake of the Nature of Medals, except that they are larger and thicker. They were generally intended either to aſcertain the Æra of ſome memorable Event, or to be given, as a Token of Honour, to ſome Perſon, who had deſerved well of the Public.

Bibliotheca Sloaniana MSS.

The ſixth Room contains Sir *Hans Sloane*'s Manuſcripts. They are a valuable Collection, though not ſo ancient as thoſe I have already mentioned. Their Subjects are comprehenſive, and conſequently may be eſteemed of general Uſe. There are many original Treatiſes on Philoſophy, Phyſic, Natural Hiſtory, and, in fine, almoſt the whole Circle of Sciences. The curious Reader may here find various and good Accounts of the Manners, Cuſtoms, Languages, Civil Government, Trade, Diſeaſes, natural Productions, Antiquities, *&c. &c.* of many different Nations. Great Numbers of them are wrote in a very maſterly Manner; therefore, as they were never printed, it would be a very meritorious Work, ſhould ſome Perſon, properly qualified, ſelect thoſe that are moſt worthy of Notice, and publiſh them, for the Satisfaction of the learned World.

In this Room is to be ſeen a Table of the Pontifical Medals, beginning with *Martin* the Fifth, (who was the firſt of the Popes that ſtruck them good) and carried on in a chronological Series to the preſent Times.

SECTION II.

HAVING accompanied my Reader, I hope in ſome Sort to his Satisfaction, through the firſt Department, and given a ſhort Account of the Contents of the ſeveral Rooms it conſiſts of, I ſhall now enter upon the ſecond in Courſe, that is, the Department of natural and artificial Productions, in which is to be ſeen, perhaps, the largeſt and moſt curious Collection the World has to boaſt of; at leaſt, it may be ſaid, that never was a Muſeum of ſuch Conſequence formed by any Perſon under the Degree of a Sovereign Prince before. There is ſcarcely a

Country,

Country, though ever ſo diſtant, that has not greatly contributed to enrich this Department. We may here ſee the Progreſs of Art in the different Ages of the World, exemplified in a Variety of Utenſils each Nation in each Century has produced. Natural Hiſtory may in this Place be ſtudied from Nature herſelf, ſo great is the Variety here contained of the moſt curious Productions of the Earth, Air, and Water.

In going through the almoſt infinite Number of Curioſities which the Department contains, I ſhall, for the greater Eaſe of my Readers, obſerve a Method ſomewhat regular; firſt giving the Inſcriptions on the ſeveral Repoſitories, and afterwards explaining the Nature of the principal Contents of them. So copious is the Subject, that my chief Endeavour muſt be, to give ſuch an Account, as may be ſatisfactory, and anſwer the End propoſed, without exceeding the Bounds I have ſet myſelf. It is ſome Degree of Merit to

mean well: I ſhall, therefore, without farther Apology, proceed.

Collectio Sloaniana.

There are many Pieces of Antiquity in this Room, conſiſting of a great Number of Urns, Veſſels, *&c.* uſed of old by different Nations, which after having been long buried in the Ruins of the Temples, and other public and private Buildings, and for many Ages, when by Accident found, eſteemed of no Worth, are now preſerved with the utmoſt Care in the ſeveral Muſeums, as Objects of Value, and worthy the greateſt Attention of the Learned. Many dark Paſſages in the ancient Hiſtorians are explained by them; and we are by their Means made acquainted with ſome important Matters relative to the Hiſtories of the reſpective Nations where they were uſed, which their Writers have omitted to mention. Many Things deemed of ſmall Value by a vulgar Obſerver, when viewed by the Learned,

are

are found to be of abundant Uſe to Science. It is on this Account the World cannot boaſt of ſo many Antiquities it could otherwiſe have done; for though Time is a great Deſtroyer of human Productions, the Iron Hand of Ignorance and Superſtition has often done Learning more real Injury in one Year, than Time in many Centuries. What Lengths will not Ignorance run, when animated by a falſe Zeal?

The Collection in this Room does not entirely conſiſt of Pieces of Antiquity; we find many modern Articles brought from diſtant Nations, particularly from the ſeveral Parts of the new World of *America*, which ſerve to diſcover the Induſtry, Genius, and Manners of the Inhabitants. Happy for them were they now content with the little that once ſatisfied them; but the polite *Europeans*, ſince the Diſcovery of thoſe Parts, have, by encreaſing their Wants, deprived them of

their

their Eaſe, convincing them they have many Things to wiſh for.

ANTIQUITATES ÆGYPTIACÆ.

In the Repoſitories bearing this Title, are a great Number of *Egyptian* Antiquities; and firſt ſeveral Bronze Figures, ſome repreſenting *Iſis* with the Infant *Orus* on her Lap; in others ſhe is ſtanding with a Variety of Symbols. For a farther Account of this Goddeſs, the Reader is referred back to Page 19. where ſhe is treated of pretty much at large.

Here are alſo ſome Figures of *Oſiris*, repreſented by a Man with a large Beard. See what is ſaid of him, Page 18, and *Harpocrates*.

Jupiter Serapis: A Figure of an old bearded Man, with a Kind of Baſket (*Modius*) over his Head.

Siſtrum: A muſical Inſtrument of Metal, in Form of a Racket, traverſed by ſeveral moveable Bars; it was conſtantly uſed in

in *Egypt* by the Prieſts of *Iſis* in their religious Ceremonies and Sacrifices.

An Urn, with a Cover cemented to it, containing an Ibis; its Form is that of an inverted Cone. See Page 19.

A Baſſo Relievo in Marble, repreſenting an Idol of *Mendes* in *Egypt*, where they formerly worſhipped a Goat; from whence it is ſuppoſed the *Greeks* borrowed their God *Pan*.

Canopus. An Alabaſter Urn, with a Cover made in Form of a Hawk's Head, and marked with ſeveral Hieroglyphics. When the Canopus was filled with the Water of the *Nile*, it was held ſacred, and kept with great Veneration and Care, being worſhipped as a God. The Canopus was not always made in the ſame Form, being ſometimes like the Body of a Man, on the Back of a Griffin, or other mixed Monſter.

We find here a great Number and Variety of ſmall earthen Figures, ſhaped like Mummies, with the Head of *Iſis*, or *Oſiris*,

Oſiris, ſome adorned with Hieroglyphics, others plain. They were eſteemed to be Guardians of the Mummies, and are more particularly deſcribed Page 19.

Several Buſtos, and Groups of Figures in earthen Ware, ſuppoſed to be the Houſhold Gods of the meaner Sort of People.

We muſt notice in this Place a Veſſel of white porous Earth, which is ſaid to have a particular Quality; for if you fill it with Water, and lay Seeds of ſmall Sallet in the Furrows on the Outſide, they will grow, and be fit for Uſe in a few Days.

At the upper End of the Table are ſeveral more Figures in Metal of *Oſiris*, *Iſis*, *Harpocrates*, *Egyptian* Prieſts, *&c.*

Apis. An *Egyptian* God repreſented by the Figure of a Bull. The *Egyptians* held in great Veneration a Bull of a certain particular Colour, with a Knot under its Tongue; he was kept and fed in a magnificent Temple, and with great Ceremony

mony attended by a ſelect Number of Prieſts, expreſly devoted to his Service. When the old one died, it was uſual for them to ſubſtitute another of the ſame Colour in his Place. Various have been the Conjectures on the Veneration in which the *Egyptians* held this Animal; but it is needleſs at this Time to mention them.

Here are ſeveral ſmall Amulets with Loops to them, which in *Egypt* the blind Superſtition of the Inhabitants prompted them to wear about their Perſons, as Charms, or Preſervatives againſt bad Fortune, unforeſeen Accidents, Sickneſs, *&c.* They left them alſo with the Dead, as Guardians of the Manes (Spirits); ſome of them are of Metal, others of vitrified Earth, and in Figure reſemble *Iſis*, with the Head of a Bird, a Dog, or a Bull. Some of the Specimens are ſo ſmall, that they are fixed on little Cuſhions, to prevent their being loſt,

The

The Head of *Anubis*, or *Cynocephalus*, a Dog which in *Egypt* they worſhipped, prompted thereto, as is ſuppoſed, on Account of his having been a conſtant Attendant of the Goddeſs *Iſis*.

Figures of *(Ailurus)* a Cat, a Monkey, *&c.* Scarabs, Beetles of various Sizes, made of Marble, Agate, Cornelian, *&c.* They were held ſacred in the Opinion of the ſuperſtitious *Egyptians*, on ſome particular Account; but why, it is at preſent very difficult to form any probable Conjecture.

Periapta. Theſe are ſmall oblong Pieces of enamelled Earth, notched, as is in general conjectured, to mark the riſing and falling of the Water of the *Nile*. The beſt Authors that have wrote on the Subject of the *Egyptian* Antiquities, call theſe Pieces of Earth *Nilometri*, or *Niloſcopia*.

We find alſo a Cylinder, and ſome Pebbles curiouſly marked with Hieroglyphics and Figures; but their Uſe is

not

not eaſily determined at this Diſtance of Time.

The next to be noticed are ſome *Phœnician* Seals, worth Attention on Account of their Antiquity.

Antiquitates Hetruscæ.

The four Repoſitories under this Title, contain *Hetruſcan* Antiquities. They were a Nation that formerly flouriſhed in that Part of *Italy*, now called *Tuſcany*. It is to be noted, they were the firſt People that cultivated the politer Arts in *Europe*, from whence they ſpread even to *Rome*, which acknowledged itſelf much indebted to the Inhabitants of that Part of *Italy*, on many Accounts.

Firſt to be remarked are ſome Bronzes; as a Figure of *Mars*, the God of War; a *Deus Averruncus*, the God who preſided over the common Sewers; a Head of *Proſerpine*, &c.

A great Number of Veſſels of different Forms, made of a Kind of fine pale red Earth;

Earth; ſome of them plain, but elegantly varniſhed; others painted with Figures, Letters, and various Ornaments, next attract our Attention. They are of a better Shape, and much handſomer than either the *Egyptian*, or thoſe firſt made of the *Roman Terra Cotta*, or Pot Earth, and were greatly eſteemed and valued by the *Romans*, after they had ſubdued the ancient *Hetruſcans*. Theſe Veſſels conſiſt of *Amphoras*, or Vaſes with two Handles, and Covers to them very curiouſly painted and ornamented. The *Roman* Amphora generally contained about ſeven Gallons *Engliſh* Wine Meaſure, theſe are not ſo large. The Uſe of them was to hold the different Kinds of Wine, Oil, *&c.* When full of Wine, the *Romans* uſed generally to bury them in the Ground for ſome Years, in order to give it a higher Flavour; and they were very curious and ſuperſtitious in their Manner of doing it.

We next come to ſome Bottles of a larger Size than the Amphoras, but for the ſame Uſe. And

And ſome much ſmaller, uſed for Libations, or perhaps as Lacrymatories, to receive the Tears of the Mourners at Funerals.

Jars with triangular Mouths, intended to pour Water on the Hands of the Prieſts, or for Libations in their Sacrifices.

Many Pateras, Diſhes, of various Shapes and Sizes: Some of them have Pedeſtals; they have Handles, which are either horizontal or vertical; and were uſed for Perfumes, for burning Incenſe, for keeping Fire, or carrying it from Place to Place.

Cups for containing the great Variety of precious Ointments that were formerly in Uſe.

Some Pateras very large, and ornamented with Figures and *Hetruſcan* Letters.

We muſt alſo take particular notice of ſome Urns of plain Alabaſter, and others very large, but ornamented with the ſame Kind of Figures and Inſcriptions as the large

large Pateras juſt above mentioned. The Letters do not agree with any Alphabet now in Uſe, or known; for which Reaſon our Antiquaries are at great Loſs to underſtand the Purport and Meaning of them.

Antiquitates Romanæ.

The next ſix Partitions are filled with *Roman* Antiquities, and conſiſt of ſeveral ancient Figures, Buſtos and Baſſo Relievos of various Kinds, and other curious Articles.

I ſhall firſt mention the Copy of an antique Piece of Sculpture, made to perpetuate the Memory of a Slave that diſcovered a dangerous Conſpiracy againſt *Rome*, whilſt grinding his Knife.

Some Wreſtlers in Stucco,

Lucina the Goddeſs of Childbirth, *Æſculapius* the God of Phyſic, ſome Veſtals and ſacrificing Veſſels in Marble, and many Marble Heads, particularly of the Emperor *Adrian*, *Hercules*, *Plato* the Philoſopher,

loſopher, *Juno*, and others, ſome of which are not eaſily diſtinguiſhed, and the reſt it is not neceſſary to particularize.

We muſt obſerve ſeveral Bronze Figures, as of *Venus*, *Cupid*, *Hercules*, *Mars*, ſeveral *Roman* Soldiers, *Dea Faſcinatrix* the Goddeſs of Spells and Charms; Veſtals, *Caſtor*, *Priapus*, *Terminus* the God who preſided over Land-marks; *Griphon*, and others.

In Bronze are alſo the Heads of *Juno*, *Diana*, *Apollo*, *Mercury*, *Minotaurus*, *Faunus*, &c.

What come next in courſe, are ſome uncommon Maſks, various Votaries or Oblations, Models of Circuſes, the Places where they exhibited their public Games, and ſeveral Pieces of Stones, Bricks, and earthern Pipes, dug out of the Ruins of the ancient *Roman* Buildings, Aqueducts, *&c.* By theſe we are in ſome Sort made acquainted with the Nature of thoſe Materials that could cauſe their Buildings to laſt

laſt ſo many Ages, ſome of them remaining tolerably perfect even to this Time.

In *England*, as well as in many other Parts of *Europe*, there have been frequently found buried in the Earth, ſeveral Kinds of Axes, Chiſſels, Wedges both with and without Loops to them, and Heads of Spears, all made of Braſs. It is far from being determined by the Antiquaries of the preſent Age, for what Uſe theſe ſeveral Articles were originally intended; their Conjectures on the Subject are various, ſome imagining they were uſed for killing the Victims in their Sacrifices, others aſſerting they were merely ornamental, and not a few at this time imagine the Antients had a ſecret Art of hardening Braſs, ſo as to make it proper for forming Edge-tools, or Inſtruments of War; which Quality, ſay they, the Braſs may have long ſince loſt by laying in the Earth; but after all, the moſt probable Opinion is, that they were the Tops of the *Roman* Lictors Faſces. They are often called

called by the general Name of Celtes, and many of them are here to be ſeen.

SACRIFICING INSTRUMENTS.

Under this Head are a Variety of odd-fancied Metal Lamps: Their Shape differs greatly; ſome being like Animals, others ſuch Monſters as have not their Likeneſs in Nature: But the Reader will form a much better Idea of them by Inſpection, than he poſſibly can by any Deſcription. They were chiefly uſed in the Temples.

A ſacrificing Knife, Simpulums, Chalices, Ladles, and other Inſtruments of Braſs, uſed by the Prieſts in their Sacrifices.

We now come to a great Number of *Roman* Pateras, Diſhes, various in Form and Size, according to the Uſes for which they were intended; many of them were for receiving the Blood of the Victims in their Sacrifices; the reſt were appropriated

to other Purpoſes, but chiefly the Service of the Prieſts in the Temples.

Lacrymatories.

Theſe were ſmall Glaſs or earthen Bottles, chiefly in the Form of Phials. At the *Roman* Funerals, the Friends of the Deceaſed, or the *(Præficæ)* Women hired for that Purpoſe, uſed to fill them with their Tears, and depoſite them very carefully with the Aſhes, in Teſtimony of their ſincere Sorrow; imagining the Manes of the Departed were thereby greatly comforted. Many Specimens of them are preſerved in the Cabinets of the Curious, and here in particular.

What claim in the next Place our Regard, are a Number of earthen ſepulchral Lamps of various Forms, uſually met with in the old Monuments near the Urns, and in the Catacombs at *Rome*, in *Naples*, and *Sicily*.

Some have aſſerted, that theſe Lamps have been found burning after being buried

buried for many Ages; but it cannot be ſuppoſed they were really burning from the Time they were there depoſited till they were found, as it is well known Fire is ſoon extinguiſhed by the Want of Air; and if it has Air, the Fuel that ſupplies it muſt waſte and decreaſe in Quantity, be it of what Nature it will: The moſt reaſonable Conjecture, therefore, is, that the Ruſh, Cotton, or Wick of theſe Lamps, was impregnated with a Kind of Phoſphorus that would take Fire as ſoon as the Air had Liberty to operate on it. Some, who maintain they were conſtantly burning, conjecture, that the Wick was made of the Filaments of Aſbeſtos, which Fire could not conſume; and that the Oil or Matter which ſupplied it was of ſuch a Nature, as that a trifling Quantity of it would laſt an Age.

We find here ſeveral *(Oſſuaria)* ſquare Urns, with Covers, and Inſcriptions on them.

And others of a more ordinary Kind of *Roman* and *Britiſh* Urns, wherein the Ancients, after having burnt the Bodies of the Deceaſed, depoſited their Aſhes, burying them with the Lamps, Lacrymatories, *&c.* already deſcribed.

Antiquitates Variæ.
T. Hollis, Armr. *Dono Dedit.*

Under this Title are preſerved a Collection of Antiquities of various Kinds, which *T. Hollis*, Eſq; gave to the Muſeum.

I ſhall, in giving a ſhort Account of them, firſt juſt mention an Alabaſter round Urn with a Cover, and another of the ſame Kind, but ſquare: Theſe were for the Purpoſe of depoſiting Aſhes.

We here find ſeveral Bronze Figures of *Egyptian* Idols, Prieſts, *&c.* but, as I have already ſufficiently enlarged on the Subject of them, it is not neceſſary to be more particular.

A *Typhon*, *Hercules*, *Mercury*, *Silenus*, &c. attract our Notice, and some more *Hetruscan* Vessels of the same Kind as those described, Page 44.

Several Figures of *Roman* Gods, Heroes, Generals, and Soldiers.

Some Marble Busts of *Janus*, *Bifrons*, *Hercules Balbinus*, *Lucina*, and *Diana*.

We must notice also under this Title some Votaries, or Oblations. It was usual among the Heathens of old, when in any imminent Danger, to make a Vow to some favourite God, to do some particular Act, if they escaped from it, as to build a Temple, or perhaps a Thing of less Consequence; and in Commemoration of their Deliverance they hung up the *Votiva Tabula*, with a proper Inscription. They sometimes also dedicated a Tablet to the Gods, in Thanksgiving of some fortunate Event, though they had made no Vow to do it.

We next proceed to Lacrymatories, Lamps, and Urns; but, as I have already

given my Reader a general Idea of them, I ſhall forbear to ſay any more on the Subject.

Here are ſome large earthen Jars *(Gutti)* which the Ancients uſed for Philtration of Liquids, particularly the Water they drank at their Meals.

American Idols.

Theſe are the chief Contents of the remaining Repoſitories. The Idols are made of Earth, and either burnt or hardened in the Sun; ſome of them were worſhipped in *Peru*, others in *Mexico*, when the *Europeans* diſcovered that Part of the World: They were placed in High-ways, to be ready for the Adoration of Paſſengers.

The *Indians* worſhipped two ſupreme Gods; one of which they eſteemed the moſt powerful, and looked upon as the Author of all Good; the other of all Evil; The firſt they worſhipped through Love, and thanked him for the Effects of his Goodneſs; the other through Fear, imploring

ploring him not to do them or theirs any Injury.

One of theſe earthen Idols, I have mentioned above, to have been worſhipped in *America*, bears a very great Reſemblance to ſome preſerved among the Antiquities of *Egypt* already deſcribed; which makes it not improbable that *South America* was firſt peopled from thence; at leaſt, it has been ſo conjectured by ſeveral of the Learned; imagining they might, in ſome of their long Voyages, have been driven on that Coaſt, without being able to return to their own Country, which is not at all ſurpriſing, if we reflect how deſtitute they were of all thoſe Helps to Navigation, which we are ſo abundantly ſupplied with.

Next to be obſerved is a *Japoneſe* Pagod, a Model of a Temple with an Idol in it. The People of *Japan* uſually keep one of them in their Houſes, in the ſame Manner the *Romans* did their Houſhold Gods.

Here are ſome Stone or Earthen Bottles incloſed in Caſes of Wicker-work, made of Cane or Ruſhes, contrived in ſuch a Manner, they may be ſwung with Violence in the Hand. They are uſed in the warmer Eaſtern Climates of *Aſia*, particularly in *Perſia*, where the Inhabitants imagine by ſwinging their Liquor in theſe Bottles, to make it more pleaſant and agreeable to the Palate. The *French* call them with much Propriety, *Gargoulettes*.

I need but juſt mention that ſeveral Kinds of *Indian* Pots are next in Courſe, and a Variety of other Articles by them applied to domeſtic Uſes, but which are not of Conſequence enough to take up more of our Time.

The Reader will obſerve a Neſt of Baſkets made of the Bark of a Tree, and edged with Porcupines Quills, dyed of various Colours; and ſome large Baſons and Ewers, of a pale green Jaſper with black Spots.

On

On the Sides of the Room are hung up in Frames ſeveral Pieces of Stucco Ceilings, *&c.* ſome of them brought from *Nero*'s Bath at *Rome*, others from *Pompeii*.

A *Bacchus* of Alabaſter, and two earthen Diſhes of *Raphael*'s Painting, which are ſuppoſed to be the firſt that were ever enamelled or glazed in that Manner.

Near the Articles juſt above mentioned, is the Sword of State of *Hugh Lupus*, firſt Earl of *Cheſter*; and ſome Baſtinadoes, which are Inſtruments of Puniſhment uſed by the *Turks* to beat the Soles of the Feet of Offenders.

I ſhall now go to one of the Repoſitories near the Windows, in which are ſome Calumets of Peace, large Tobacco Pipes, which the *Indians* of *North America* uſe as a Token of Friendſhip.

Some Whiſks made of an *Indian* Cow's Tail, and Bruſhes of fibrous Roots and Feathers.

A Variety of muſical Inſtruments from the *Eaſt* and *Weſt Indies* next claim our

Attention, ſome of which are Wind Inſtruments, others have Strings; and here are likewiſe Drums of ſeveral Kinds from *China* and *America*, but more particularly ſome from *Lapland*, of the ſame Sort as thoſe uſed by their Enchanters, by the Help of which, as many Authors have aſſerted, they were enabled to raiſe mighty Tempeſts, and do other Things not leſs wonderful.

In the other Repoſitory near the Windows are a great Number and Variety of ancient mathematical Inſtruments, by which the learned Obſerver may be enabled to judge how much that particular Branch of Science is improved.

My Reader will now accompany me to the Table where there are more Pieces of *Roman* Antiquity preſerved; ſome of which moſt worthy Remark I ſhall mention.

Among them are ſeveral Heads and Buſtos, of which the Head of *Mercury*, with a Chain fixed to it, deſerves Notice; it

it is ſuppoſed to have been worn by ſome *Roman*, as a Charm, to ſecure him good Fortune, and preſerve him from Thieves; and another of *Caliſtus*, a Freedman of *Claudius Cæſar*, who grew ſo wealthy, that he was generally eſteemed the richeſt and moſt fortunate Man among the *Romans* of the Age he lived in.

Some Pieces of Bricks and Tiles with Figures and Letters ſtamped on them, (by which we may be enabled to judge how near the *Romans* approached to a Diſcovery of the noble Art of Printing) are here preſerved.

I ſhall paſs over diverſe other Heads, ſome Figures of Animals, and Heads of Canes or Sticks; and proceed to the Specimens of the *Roman* Fibulas, a Kind of Buckle or Claſp, uſed by them to faſten their upper Garments, and of which we could not have formed any perfect Idea, were it not for the Specimens preſerved in the ſeveral Collections of the Curious.

Here are alſo a Variety of Keys of different Sorts, particularly the Ring Key, which for greater Security was worn on the Finger; and ſome Bracelets and other Ornaments, *&c.* of Metal.

We muſt next attend to the Stylus, which is a Steel Inſtrument, uſed by the *Romans* to write on their Tablets of Wax.

Some *Roman* Weights, and ſeveral Pebbles with Figures and Inſcriptions on them.

Various Kinds of Meaſures for Oil, Pulſe, *&c.* *Teſſelæ*, and Parts of ancient Pavements and *Moſaic* Work; the Dice here preſerved, are found in great Quantities in different Parts of the World, and by ſome ſuppoſed to have been dropped by the Soldiers of the *Roman* Armies in their March from one Station to another.

Some Corn brought from the Ruins of *Herculaneum*.

There is a Leaf of Silver, or Amalgama, preſerved here, on which are plainly

ly perceivable the Lines and Letters that have been impreſſed or ſtamped on it.

We next ſee ſome *Turkiſh* Taliſmans, or Charms, with *Arabic* Inſcriptions, being generally a Sentence of the Alcoran. In theſe the Superſtitious among the *Mahometans* have great Faith, and rely much on their Power, imagining there are no Misfortunes, from which they may not be delivered by them, and particularly that whoever wears them is free from all Danger of being aſſaulted by evil Genii, or Spirits, which they believe are continually hovering about the World, watching Occaſions to injure Mankind.

Some Tahbahs or Seals, (inſcribed with *Arabic* Words) which the *Turks* uſe inſtead of ſigning their Names.

Further on are ſome Taliſmans and Abraxas, a Kind of Spells or Charms with which ſome ſuperſtitious or artful People in the firſt Ages of Chriſtianity pretended they could cure all Diſeaſes, the Parties afflicted wearing them about their

their Perſons: It was likewiſe imagined they were a Protection from Witchcraft and Enchantments. Some of them are marked with the Conſtellations; others have the Figures of Angels, *&c.* on them; but theſe Cabaliſts eſpecially attributed on all Occaſions a particular Power and Virtue to the Word *Abracadabra*, the Letters of it being properly arranged.

My Reader is next to obſerve a Snuff-box made of the Lava of Mount *Veſuvius*, ſome Account has been given, Page 6, of the Nature of this Lava.

A Ring ſet with a tranſparent Agate.

Two Pieces of ſerpentine Stone for the Lid and Bottom of a Snuff-box, and ſome Pieces of metallic Cryſtal from Mount *Ætna*.

Among ſome Bronze Figures brought hither with the *Cotton* Library, is one particularly worthy of Remark, on Account of its Singularity, the naked Body being covered with a rough Subſtance, and upon the whole bears a great Reſemblance

to

to the Porcupine Man, who ſome Years ago ſhewed himſelf to the Royal Society, and afterwards to the Public in general: He has a Son of the ſame wonderful Appearance.

T. Hollis, Arm^r. *Dono Dedit.*

We now come to ſome Articles given by *T. Hollis*, Eſq; particularly Thread, Corn, Hinges, and other Matters, brought from the Ruins of *Herculaneum.*

More Braſs Axes, Heads of Spears, Wedges, *&c.* for an Account of which the Reader is referred to Page 48. and ſome Keys, Bracelets, *&c.*

Here we find ſome Articles of which the original Uſe is not yet with any Degree of Preciſion known by the Learned of the preſent Age.

When we attentively view the Matrices wherewith the *Romans* ſtamped their earthen Ware, Tiles, *&c.* (of which there are ſome Specimens here preſerved) it ſeems a Matter of great Surprize that human Invention

Invention ſhould in theſe early Times have gone ſo far towards diſcovering the Art of Printing, and that it ſhould yet fail of being compleated till many Ages afterwards.

LETHEULLIER. *Dono Dedit.*

We find here preſerved ſome *Egyptian* Idols of a ſmaller Size than thoſe already deſcribed in a former Part of theſe Sheets; among them is a Figure of *Harpocrates*, adorned with all the Symbols he is ever repreſented with. The others it is unneceſſary to particularize, as I have ſaid ſo much on the Subject, Page 19.

In this Room, over the Repoſitories, are a great Variety of modern (and ſome curious ancient) Articles, brought from the ſeveral diſtant Parts of the World. I ſhall only take notice of a large Calabaſh (a Kind of *American* Vegetable) in the Form of a Globe.

Some *Indian* Shields made of Hides of the Rhinoceros, or Elephant; they differ

in

in Size, ſeveral of them being large, others of ſmaller Dimenſions.

Many Specimens of Hats of all Sizes, and various Materials; among them are ſuch as the Bramins and Mandarins wear, in the Eaſtern Countries, and *China*.

Fans from *Japan*, *China*, *Tonquin*, and other Places; their Shape, Faſhion, and Materials differ, but one of them is of a remarkable large Size, and made of the ſingle Leaf of a Taliput Tree, being uſed for cooling a Room.

Here are ſome Drums larger than thoſe mentioned Page 57. Targets, and a great Number of Inſtruments of War, both ancient and *Indian*; a Battle-ax, and ſome Spears, Pikes, Swords, Daggers of various Forms, and Bows and Arrows, Quivers, *&c.*

I ſhall conclude what I have to ſay of this Room, by juſt mentioning a Variety of *American* Houſhold Utenſils, made of Vegetables, chiefly Gourds; and ſome

Snow

Snow Shoes and Sledges uſed in the Northern Nations of *Europe*.

Collectio Sloaniana.

The next Room on which I ſhall attempt to make my curſory Remarks, contains a Collection of Minerals and Foſſils.

Silices. Achates. Sardi.

In the Cabinet under theſe Titles are many Specimens of Flints, Agates, and Cornelians.

At the Top are ſome large Pieces of Cryſtal brought from the Hartz Foreſt in *Germany*, and other Mines.

Flints in their natural State are a Kind of ſemitranſparent Stone, found in almoſt all Parts of the World; they ſtrike Fire with Steel, and by intenſe Heat are melted into Glaſs: Such of them as are capable of receiving a fine Poliſh, and are variegated in Colour, (which Variety theſe as well as all other Stones are ſuppoſed to receive from the influence of ſome neighbouring

bouring Mine) are ranked among the lower prized Gems.

Agates are cut and poliſhed Stones of the fineſt Kind of Flints, generally found in the Eaſtern and warmer Climates; they vary much in Colour, and were called *Achates* from a River in *Sicily* of that Name, on the Banks of which they were, as it is ſuppoſed firſt found.

A particular Kind of Agates, that have by Nature delineated on them lively Repreſentations of Moſſes, Shrubs, Trees, Landſcapes, or other Figures, are commonly called *Mocoes*, and deemed of more Value than the others.

Cornelians are another Species of Flint, for the moſt part of a pale red or yellowiſh Colour. This kind of Stone is but little tranſparent, yet takes a fine Poliſh; it was formerly very much uſed for making Cups, Boxes, *&c.* and often for Thumb Rings, being then finely cut and poliſhed: it is now in great Eſteem for engraving, Seals, *&c.* It is ſaid theſe

Stones

Stones were called *Sardi* from their having been firſt applied to Uſe in the Iſland of *Sardinia*.

Iaspides.

Jaſper is another of the lower prized precious Stones; it is chiefly opake, but ſometimes in part tranſparent. It is ſofter than Agate, but harder than Marble; ſtrikes Fire with Steel, and yields to Calcination. Theſe are its general Qualities. There are ſeveral Species of this Stone, of which I ſhall only mention a few of the moſt valuable.

Heliotropium, the Bloodſtone is green ſpotted with red; it has been ſuppoſed to have a particular inherent Virtue, *viz.* that of immediately ſtopping Bleedings at the Noſe, or elſewhere. Here are ſome fine Specimens of this Stone to be ſeen.

Ophites, the Serpentine Marble, a Name given by the Ancients to ſuch of the Marbles as had their variegations not in form of Veins, but in Spots ſo as in

ſome

ſome Meaſure to reſemble a Serpent's Skin; they knew three Kinds, the black, the white, and the grey, we know beſides theſe two others, a greyiſh brown one with green Spots, and a pale grey one with green Spots and Veins.

The Nephritic Stone is of a greeniſh Colour bordering on the Olive, but ſometimes variegated with white, black, or yellow, it has never any red in it, and is harder than moſt other Jaſpers; a Cup made of this Stone, was Sold for 1600 Crowns in the Time of the Emperor *Rudolphus* II. This kind of Jaſper is in great eſteem among the *Turks*, who apply it to ſeveral curious Uſes, particularly they make of it Handles for their Sabres, Knives, Daggers, *&c.*

A plate of this Stone was formerly thought to be an immediate Cure for the Nephritic Colic, on being applied to the Reins; and it was alſo imagined that wearing it would preſerve the Party from the Attack of that Diſtemper.

We

We find here many Sorts of florid Jaſpers, diſtinguiſhed by a great Variety of Colours; ſome have by the Hand of Nature delineated on them Repreſentations of Rivers, Trees, Landſcapes, Ruins of Buildings, *&c.*

Egyptian Pebbles are a particular fine Kind of variegated and figured Stones; ſuch as have but one Colour are leaſt valuable.

Marmora. Alabastra.

Under theſe Titles are preſerved a great Variety of Specimens of the ſeveral Kinds of Marble and Alabaſter.

Marble is a hard opake precious Stone, does not ſtrike Fire with Steel, yields eaſily to Calcination, and ferments with, and is ſoluble in acid menſtrua. It is generally found in great Maſſes under the Ground, and cut out of Quarries, though there are in ſeveral Parts of the World entire Mountains of Marble; it differs in Colour in almoſt every Country, but the

Florence

Florence Marble for the moſt part bears a natural Reſemblance to the Ruins of Towns, Rocks, *&c.*

Alabaſter is of the ſame Nature as Marble, but of one ſimple Colour, more brittle, ſofter, and, when cut into thin Plates, ſemi-tranſparent.

Spata. Selenites.

In this Repoſitory are Spars and Moonſtones. The Spar is a ſhining Stone, compoſed of cryſtaline and earthy Matter; it does not ſtrike Fire with Steel, but yields a whitiſh Powder on Calcination. When pure it is pellucid and colourleſs, has the appearance of Cryſtal but wants its diſtinguiſhing Characters; it ferments violently with acids, and is wholly ſoluble in them. Spars are frequently found in Caves, Grottos, Clefts of Rocks and Mines; they ſhoot like Salts in Spires and other Figures, and abound in many Parts of *England.*

Selenites

Selenites, (have been frequently called *Lapides Speculares*) the Moon-ſtone is of a brighter Colour than the Spar, and is tabulated, or can be ſeperated into thin Plates; the Selenites do not ferment with acids, but readily calcine in theFire; they conſiſt of ſeveral Species, and are found in many Parts of the World, in *England*, in the Clay-pits in *Staffordſhire*, and particularly many of them in a bluiſh Clay near *Harborough* in *Oxfordſhire*. It has been ſaid that the *Chineſe* Moon-ſtone ſuffers Increaſe and Diminution in Sympathy with the Increaſe and Decreaſe of the Moon.

Gypſum is of this Kind, but leſs tranſparent, and more eaſily calcined, yielding a fine white Powder, of which is made Plaiſter of *Paris*, a Commodity well known. The Gypſum has ſomething the appearance of the ſofter Marbles, bright, gloſſy, and in a ſmall Degree tranſparent; it does not give Fire with Steel, nor ferments with or is diſſoluble

in

in an acid Menſtruum. It abounds in *Dorſetſhire*, and ſome other Parts of *England*.

Crystalla.

Cryſtals are clear tranſparent colourleſs Stones, generally found on high Mountains, Rocks, and in Mines; by a chemical Diſſolution they yield Chalk and Salt. They are compoſed of ſimple not filamentous Plates; not flexile nor elaſtic, giving Fire with Steel: not fermenting in acid Menſtrua and calcining in a ſtrong Fire. The Perfection of Cryſtal conſiſts in its Luſtre, Tranſparency, and Hardneſs. It is applied to various Uſes, being often manufactured into Boxes, Cups, and other Toys. Such as have Straws, Duſt, *&c.* encloſed in them, are moſt curious and rare, but leaſt fit for Uſe. Naturaliſts deem the pureſt Cryſtal to be the original Matter of all the precious Stones of the higher Claſſes, which being in a certain Degree influenced by different mi-

neral and metalline Qualities, thence assume their Variety of Colour and Hardness, and are called by their several distinct Names, as will be shewn when we come to the precious Stones of Value.

Apyri. Sulphura.

We find in this Repository many Specimens of Stones that resist Fire, and of the different Kinds of Sulphurs, or inflammable Minerals.

Apyri are opake rough Stones, so called from their resisting an intense Heat, and yielding neither Smoke nor Sparkles in the Fire. I shall mention some of the Kinds: and first

Lapis Ollaris. This is a soft Stone, and may be cut or turned into Vessels of different Forms.

Mica, the Glimmer, is a brittle Stone, on which, when broke, are to be seen small white polished Lamina, as in Talc. The *Mica Aurea*, the gold glimmer, is frequently found in *Arabia*, *Egypt*, and other

other Eaſtern Parts of the World; the *Mica Argentea*, the ſilver glimmer, in *Sileſia* and *Bohemia*, and both of them ſometimes in *England*. The Spangles, with which the Mica abounds, have often led People to imagine they had found ſome Gold or Silver Ore, but in truth it contains neither of thoſe metals, being only a kind of Talc accidentally coloured.

Talc is a ſhining Stone, eaſily ſeperated into thin tranſparent Scales or Leaves, is flexile and elaſtic, does not give Fire with Steel, nor ferments with acid menſtrua. What we call Iſinglaſs, is a kind of Talc; it is diſtinguiſhed from the Plates of the Selenites by its Elaſticity. The *Romans* uſed it in their Windows; and it now often ſerves to cover miniature Paintings, in Water-Colours, or Crayons. The Oil of Talc has made a great noiſe among the Alchymiſts, on account of the Power it was ſaid to have, of fixing Silver ſo as to make it of equal Value with Gold, but no ſuch Oil was ever known to be extracted,

that which has been called ſuch, being a mere Impoſition.

Amianthus. This is of the Claſs of the *Fibrariæ*; it is an opake browniſh Stone, compoſed of ſhort and abrupt Filaments, flexile and elaſtic, and eaſily ſeparable into Plates, or other irregular Pieces. There are ſeveral Kinds of it; and it is chiefly found in *Germany*, *France*, and *Egypt*, and one Kind often in *Yorkſhire*. Theſe kind of Stones have been often confounded with the ſeveral ſpecies of the Aſbeſtos, in conſequence of which, we have loſt the Art of ſpinning and working the Aſbeſtos into incombuſtable Cloth.

Aſbeſtos, the Cotton-ſtone, is naturally of a white or Silver Colour, and conſiſts of ſmall Fibres, of which may be made fine Threads, brittle, yet ſomewhat tractable; its Fibres are flexile and elaſtic, and compoſed of ſingle and continuous Filaments, therein differing from the Amianthus, the Filaments of which are ſhort and abrupt: The Ancients had a Method

Method of manufacturing it into Cloth or Paper, which would for a conſiderable Time remain unconſumed in a common Fire: it is found either encloſed in other Stones, or on the Surfaces of them. It has been ſuppoſed that this Kind of Cloth was made Uſe of among the *Romans* at their Funerals, to preſerve the Aſhes of the Deceaſed unmixed, in order to their being depoſited in the Urn. On ſome late Experiments made, a Napkin of this Cloth has been found to ſuffer a very ſenſible Diminution of its Weight every Time it was put into the Fire. Doctor *Hill* with Reaſon thinks that a Stone of this Kind, which he deſcribes as white, looſe and thready, with broad Filaments, never forming themſelves into Maſſes, but always remaining looſe, might be manufactured into Cloth of the Kind abovementioned. It is found near the Surface of the Earth in many parts of *Scotland*.

Under the Title *Sulphura* are comprehended all the inflammable Minerals.

Ambers of various Kinds: This is a yellow Subſtance, more or leſs tranſparent, of a gummous Conſiſtence, a reſinous Taſte, and a Smell like Turpentine; when rubbed ſo as to be warm, it attracts light Bodies, as Straws, *&c.* and yields a Kind of Light in the Dark: it ſerves for many Uſes, being often manufactured into Heads of Canes, Toys, Cups, *&c.* It is found in the greateſt Plenty on the *Baltick* Sea, along the Coaſts of *Pruſſia*, and ſome other Parts of *Europe*. Different Subſtances are often found encloſed in the Maſſes of Amber, but more particularly Inſects; which proves that it was once in a fluid State, but afterwards hardened by the Operation of the Air, *&c.* on it; the Specimens of Amber, that have any Thing encloſed in them being valuable, has occaſioned its being often imitated by Artiſts, but the Fraud is eaſily diſcovered on a proper Inſpection.

Bitumens, Jets, and Coals, (ſmooth pitchy black Stones) muſt here be noticed:

ticed: and the Aſphaltus, or *Jews* Pitch. Jet has a Grain like Wood, is very light, moderately hard, not fuſible, but readily inflammable, aud burning a long Time with a greeniſh white Flame. It is found in detached Maſſes. Cannel Coal is found in *Strata*, is not leſs hard than many Stones, is inflammable, yet flames but a little while; in all theſe particulars differing from Jet, with which it has often been confounded.

Sulphurs, or Brimſtones, an unctious Subſtance, of various Colours, according to its Purity; when moſt ſo, it is eaſily inflammable and fuſible in Fire, and caſts a ſtrong ſuffocating Smell; it is dry, ſolid, and friable, is indued with an electric Power, and does not diſſolve in acids: It is very frequently mixed with Arſenic; and ſometimes with metalline Particles, when it is called *Marcaſite* and *Pyrites*. The *Pyrites Aureus* is frequently met with in great plenty near *Banbury* in *Oxfordſhire*; but a finer Sort is found at *Cleydon*

a Village hard by. Theſe were formerly uſed inſtead of Flints for Carbines and Piſtols. The *Pyrites Argenteus*, or Silver Marcaſite, was met with in great Plenty on digging a Well at *Dodington* in *Oxfordſhire*; and ſometimes it is taken out of the Belemnites found in that Neighbourhood. A particular Sort of Marcaſite, called by the Inhabitants of thoſe Parts Crow Iron, (within of a golden, but without of a darkiſh ruſty Colour) is very frequently ſeen at *Aſton Rowant* in *Oxfordſhire*, and another Kind at *Henley* upon *Thames*. The Pyrites is alſo often found in *Staffordſhire*.

Mineralia. Metallica.

In this Repoſitory is to be ſeen a large Collection of Ores, from almoſt all the known Mines in the World. I ſhall not detain my Reader long on this Subject, but refer him for farther Satisfaction, to the Specimens here preſerved.

Thoſe

Thoſe on the upper Shelves on the Left-hand, conſiſt of Lead Ore; the next under them are the Silver and Gold Ores, and the Bottom Shelves contain Tin Ores.

On the Shelves on the Right-hand are firſt the Iron, then the Copper Ores, where the Azure Stone, or *Lapis Lazuli*, and the *Turcois*, are very rare Specimens, and are to be ranked among the precious Stones.

The next Shelf contains Quickſilver and Cinnabar Ores. The others are Antimony, Biſmuth, Cobalt, and Calamine, (*Lapis Calaminariis*) called Semimetals; for theſe yield a very ſmall Regulus, or liquid Metal, which, though it can be melted again, is not by itſelf ductile, or ſo far malleable as to be of any Uſe to Manufacture. Antimony is never found native in its perfect State, being always mixed with Sulphur and other extraneous Matter; when ſeparated from its Ore it is eaſily fuſible, and greatly promotes the Fuſion of other Foſſils: It is of great Uſe in Medicine, Chemiſtry, and Mechanics,

and is an Ingredient in Pewter, Bell Metal, and the mixt Metal of which Printing Types are made. Biſmuth is hard, and leſs friable than Antimony; it is very rarely found native, more commonly in the State of Ore, occaſioned by a large Mixture of Sulphur and Arſenic. Properly prepared it enters into the Compoſition of Bell Metal, and the Metal of which Printing Types are made, like Antimony, it renders other Metals more eaſily fuſible. It is found in *Germany*, and in many Parts of *England*. Cobalt is a compact heavy Mineral, has a ſhining Appearance, and much reſembles ſome of the Antimonial Ores: It is found in different Forms and Colours, owing to various Accidents; from Cobalt is produced Zaffer and Smalt; the *Mendip* Hills in *England* afford it, but it is not ſo rich as the *German* and *Bohemian*.

The *Lapis Calaminaris* is a ſpungy Subſtance, of a lax and cavernous Structure, yet conſiderably heavy; when pure, it is

of

of a pale browniſh grey Colour, but from its lax Structure ſubject to extraneous Mixtures. Dr. *Lawſon* was the firſt who aſſerted from a Courſe of Experiments, that Calamine was the Ore of Zink, which is known in *England* by the Name of Spelter: Zink is very frequently brought us from the *Eaſt Indies*, under the Name of Tutenag; it melts in a very ſmall Fire; both Calamine and Zink turn Copper into Braſs. Calamine is found in great Plenty in *England*, particularly in *Somerſetſhire*.

In one of the Tables near the Windows on the Right-hand, are a great Number and Variety of *Agates*, *Onyxes*, and *Sardonyxes*, rough and poliſhed; ſome of them are ſmall like Seeds, which in the Beds where they are found, meeting with proper Particles, by a natural Coalition, and aſſiſted by the Heat of the Sun in warmer Climates, encreaſe in Bulk. The *Agate* is a ſemi-pellucid Gem, variegated with Veins and Clouds, but without Zones; the ſeveral Kinds are of different Colours.

The *Eaſt India Agates* are much finer than thoſe of *Bohemia*, *America*, or any other Part of the World. Among the moſt curious of the Specimens in this Place, are *two Pendants*, ſet in Form of a Heart, each having by Nature delineated on it a tolerable Repreſentation of an Eclipſe, one of the Sun, the other of the Moon: Their Drops are Onyxes.

The *Onyx* is a ſemi-tranſparent Stone of the Agate Kind, (often imitated by the Lapidaries with Agate) it has various coloured Zones, but none red; and is compoſed either of a Number of flat Plates, or of a Series of Coats round a central Nucleus: The Lapidaries ſhew their Ingenuity in contriving to cut them in ſuch a Manner, as to have Figures or Hiſtories on them in Baſſo Relievo, with the Ground of a different Colour: Theſe Pieces of Sculpture are called *Cameos*. The *Onyx* is found in ſeveral Parts of the *Eaſt Indies*, in *Mexico*, *Italy*, *Bohemia*, and many Places

in

in *Germany:* It is formed of Cryſtal, debaſed with a ſmall Admixture of Earth.

The *Sardonyx* is of the Onyx Kind, and is either zoned or tabulated; it is compoſed of the true Matter of the Onyx, but variegated with Zones or Plates of that of the red or yellow Cornelian, whence its Name: It is by the Lapidaries divided into ſeveral diſtinct Species, and generally found in ſuch Parts of the World as produce the Onyx, particularly the warmer and Eaſtern Climates.

In this Table we find alſo many Specimens of the different Kinds of *Jaſper*, of which ſome Account has been given, Page 68.

And here is a rough *Egyptian* Pebble, broke into two Parts; on each Piece is a perfect Reſemblance of the Head of *Chaucer*, as he is uſually painted: This is entirely the Work of Nature, not having been at all aſſiſted by Art.

Some Pieces of *Lapis Lazuli*, or *Azure Stone*, by the Ancients called *Cyaneus* and

Cæru-

Cæruleum. It is of a blue Colour, veined and ſpotted with white and yellow, not difficult to imitate by Art; but the genuine good Stone ſhould reſiſt Fire and Smoke, and come forth with new Luſtre; of this is made Ultramarine. It is found in Mines of Gold, Silver, and Copper, and more frequently in Pits of Marble, which laſt is the Kind generally uſed.

We next come to a great Number of Specimens of precious Stones of all Kinds, opake and tranſparent, rough and poliſhed, ſome looſe, others ſet. I ſhall give my Reader a few Remarks on the Nature of ſome of them; and begin with the

Opal, ſuppoſed to be the *Pyropus* of *Ovid*; this is the ſofteſt of all Gems, generally from the Size of a ſmall Pea to a Horſe-bean, but ſometimes larger than the Bean, and often ſmaller than the Pea: Its Colour is whitiſh, or rather that of the fineſt Mother of Pearl, but ſo tranſparent that one may ſee deep into the Stone: It is not eaſy by Deſcription to give an Idea

of

of it; for, as it is turned about, it ſhews almoſt all Colours, as yellow, red, blue, green, purple, and a milky grey. It is produced in *Egypt*, in *Arabia*, ſeveral Parts of the *Eaſt Indies*, and ſometimes in *Europe*: The Oriental are the fineſt; but the *Bohemian*, nevertheleſs, very beautiful. It is often found among the Earth of Mountains, on the Banks of Rivers, and bedded in Jaſper.

Oculus Cati, *the Cat's Eye*, by ſome called *Aſteria*, is of the Nature of an Opal, but harder, and ſhews only two Colours, brown and white; the brown ſeeming to be the Ground, and the white playing about it in the ſame Manner the Fire Colour does in the Opal. This Stone takes a fine Poliſh, but is uſually worn in its natural State: Its Form is for the moſt Part that of the half of a ſmall biſected Globe, being flattiſh on one Side, round on the other. It is found in the *Eaſt* and *Weſt Indies*, and ſometimes in *Europe*.

Turcois.

Turcois. This was long thought to be a natural Gem; but it has ſince been diſcovered to be only in reality the Bone of an Animal, by Accident fallen into a Copper Mine, whence it derives its ſtony and mineral Qualities: It has not that fine blue Colour when firſt found, requiring ſome Art to bring it to Perfection, and when done it does not for any Length of Time continue, but becomes gradually green; which is the Reaſon of its not being ſo valuable as it would otherwiſe be: Whilſt it holds its Colour it is indeed moſt beautiful.

Oculus Mundi is of a pale and uniform Colour, a whitiſh grey, no ways varied; it is almoſt entirely opake, and does not take a good Poliſh: When put into Water for a ſmall Space of Time, it becomes conſiderably tranſparent, and takes the Colour of the yellow Cornelian, or rather Amber, that is, a very fine bright pale yellow; but it retains this Beauty only whilſt in the Water, taking, when dry,

its

its natural Appearance. This ſurprizing Stone is not yet known to be produced in any Country but *China*, though our own Country has afforded Stones that, in ſome Degree, emulate its Qualities.

We now proceed to make a few Remarks, or Obſervations, on the Nature of the tranſparent Gems. Theſe are not improbably ſuppoſed to take their ſeveral Tinges, or Colours, from the predominant Influence of ſome neighbouring Mine, communicated in the ſame Manner, that beautiful blue is to the Turcois in a Copper Mine. Theſe Gems are by the Naturaliſts, according to their Qualities and Hardneſs, diſpoſed in the following Order.

Aqua Marina, *Aque Marine*. This is, in all Probability, the *Beryl* of the Ancients; it took its modern Name from its Colour, (a fine Sea green, inclined to bluiſh, reſembling Sea Water) which it receives from the Influence of Copper and Iron Ore. It is found in various

Shapes

Shapes and Sizes, generally about the Size of a Horſe-bean; it bears a natural Poliſh when found, and has the Sea green Colour in all Degrees, from the deepeſt to the paleſt, without the Intermixture of any other Colour. When this Stone is in Perfection, it approaches to the Hardneſs of a Grenate, or Garnet, but is often much ſofter: a very ſmall Degree of Heat deprives it of its Colour. It is found in the *Eaſt Indies*, particularly the Iſland of *Ceylon*, and ſometimes in *Europe*, as in *Sileſia*, &c. Thoſe from the warmer Eaſtern Climates are much the hardeſt and fineſt.

Hyacinth, or *Jacinth*, is of a pale Vermilion Colour, or red, with a ſmall Admixture of yellow, uſually called a Flame Colour, which Appearance it probably receives from Lead and Iron. It is found of various Degrees of Paleneſs or Deepneſs; ſometimes the yellow is greatly predominant; its Form is that of an oblong roundiſh Pebble, flatted on one Side.

Side. This Stone is not near ſo hard as the Ruby or Sapphire, but much more ſo than any Sort of Cryſtal: It takes a fine Poliſh; and is brought us in the greateſt Perfection from the *Eaſt Indies*: It is alſo found in the *Weſt Indies*, and in ſome Parts of *Europe*, as *Sileſia* and *Bohemia*; thoſe from the *Eaſt* are by much the hardeſt, as in general all the Gems that come from thence are.

Granate, or *Garnet*, as it is generally called, is a very beautiful Gem; the Colour is a fine bright full red, with a ſmall Tinge of blue: the Influence of Gold, or Iron and Tin Ores may poſſibly be the Cauſe of its beautiful Appearance. It is never found in angular Columns, like Cryſtal, as many Gems are, but always in Form of an oblong irregular Pebble: It is not ſo ſubject to Faults and Blemiſhes as the Ruby, and when pure and well coloured, it is little inferior to it in Beauty. This Stone is of a middle Degree of Hardneſs between the Sapphire

and

and common Cryſtal: The Ladies are well acquainted with it, having of late been much worn by them in a Variety of Ornaments, as Bracelets, Caps, Egrettes, &c. It is brought from the *Eaſt Indies*, where moſt of the fineſt of our Gems are produced, yet often found in *Italy*, *Hungary*, and *Bohemia*.

Amethyſt is always of a purple Colour, but of many Shades, having ſometimes a bluer, at others a redder Caſt, and reaching from very near a Roſe Colour to a Violet, according as it has been influenced by Gold, or Iron and Tin Ores. It is found in the *Eaſt* and *Weſt Indies*, and in ſeveral Parts of *Europe*. Thoſe of the Pebble Kind are moſt valuable, by being hardeſt, and having, when poliſhed, the fineſt Luſtre; but it is moſt frequently met with in the angular Figure of Cryſtal. In the fineſt Specimens, it is of equal Value and Hardneſs with the Ruby; but this is not common. When deprived of its Colour by Fire, it wants

nothing but Hardneſs to make it a perfect Imitation of the Diamond, ſo beautiful is its Luſtre.

Topaz. This is the *Chryſolite* of the *Ancients*; it is always of a pure yellow, or fineſt Gold Colour, but of different Shades or Degrees, from the deepeſt Saffron down to the paleſt Amber, or Straw Colour. Lead is ſuppoſed to influence it in this reſpect. The moſt valuable is equal in Hardneſs to the Ruby or Sapphire: They are ſeldom found very large; but the Great Mogul has one that weighs near 160 Carats, which is of very great Value. The true Topaz is always met with in a Pebble-like Form; it has, when poliſhed, a glorious yellow Colour. Cryſtal, tinged with yellow, is often ſubſtituted inſtead of it by the modern Jewellers, but the Wheel diſcovers the Difference; for the very worſt Topaz is much harder than Cryſtal. They are found in the *Eaſt* and *Weſt Indies*, and ſometimes in *Europe*.

Emerald

Emerald is of a fine green Colour, (of all the different Shades from the deepeſt to the paleſt) occaſioned by ſome neighbouring Iron and Copper Mines. This Stone loſes its Colour in Fire, and is then undiſtinguiſhable from a white Sapphire. The genuine oriental Emerald is a very hard and moſt beautiful Gem, but few of them have of late been brought to *Europe*, that which the Jewellers call oriental, being the Produce of *America*; and what is uſually ſold under the Name of occidental Emerald is nothing but tinged Cryſtal. The Emerald is ſometimes found in a Pebble-like Form, but more frequently in a columnar or angular one, like Cryſtal. The oriental Emerald is of the Hardneſs of the Sapphire, or Ruby, and ſecond only to the Diamond in Luſtre and Value. The *American* is of the Hardneſs of the Garnet, and the *European* ſofter than that, but much harder than Cryſtal. The Pebble Emeralds are found looſe in the Earth,

often

often on the Banks of Rivers, the columnar adhering to a white opake cryſtalline Matter. The moſt beautiful and valuable are brought from the *Eaſt Indies*; but they are alſo found in *Peru*, and other Parts of *South America*, and ſometimes in *Europe*.

Sapphire is a moſt beautiful Gem of a fine blue Colour, of all Shades from the deepeſt to a pale ſky blue: It owes its Colour to Copper, and may by Fire be made to have a near Reſemblance to the Diamond. The fineſt, which come to us from the *Eaſt Indies*, are equal in Hardneſs to the Ruby; they are now and then found in *Europe*, but not very frequently or very good. The beſt and hardeſt are of a Pebble-like Form; they are ſometimes found in the Cryſtal Form. The white Sapphir, as the Jewellers call it, is very little inferior to the Diamond in Value.

Ruby is of a very fine red Colour, with a ſmall Admixture of purple, which increaſes

creaſes its Beauty: its Colour it receives from Gold and Tin. In the larger Specimens it is often ſpotted, or otherwiſe blemiſhed, which greatly reduces its Value. It bears ſo good a Poliſh in its natural State, that it is often worn as it is found. Its Colour is from the deepeſt to the paleſt red, but always tinged, more or leſs, with purple. This Stone is only found genuine in the *Eaſt Indies*, and is always (before it is poliſhed) of a Pebble-like Form: When in a perfect State, it is of great Beauty and Value, inferior to none but the Diamond.

The *Diamond* is colourleſs, the hardeſt and moſt valuable of all precious Stones: It is brought from the *Eaſt Indies*, and ſome from *Brazil*, but not ſo fine.

In the Table we are now treating of, are to be ſeen a great Variety of Pearls, particularly one of a purple Colour, and another in the Form of a Bunch of Grapes; both which are very rare and valuable Specimens.

In

In the Table near the Window, among the Models of Diamonds, is that of *Pitt*'s Brilliant, which was ſold to the King of *France* for 120,000*l.* The preſent King wears it on his Hat inſtead of a Button; its Weight is 136¾ Carats.

A Model of a fine Roſe Diamond, weighing 139¼ Carats, being 2¾ Carats more than *Pitt*'s Brilliant juſt above mentioned; but, not having ſo fine a Luſtre, it is not ſo valuable. This Diamond formerly belonged to *Charles the Bold*, the laſt Duke of *Burgundy*; and when he was killed, and his Army defeated in the Battle of *Nancy*, it fell into the Hands of a common Soldier, who by Accident found it on the Field of Battle; but, being ignorant of its Value, ſold it for leſs than a Crown. One of the Grand Dukes of *Tuſcany* afterwards, by Purchaſe, became poſſeſſed of it, and it was preſerved in the Family of *Medicis* for a long Time, but at length came into the Hands of the

preſent Emperor of *Germany*, who carried it to *Vienna*.

There are more *Models* of *Diamonds* in this Table; but as none of them are near ſo large as the two already mentioned, it is not at all material to be more particular on the Subject, or to inform the Reader who are the reſpective Poſſeſſors of them.

Among a great Variety of Cryſtals manufactured into Vaſes, Cups, Boxes, *&c.* are ſome *Beads* of *Cryſtal*, which are, not without Probability, ſuppoſed to have been worn by the ancient Druids in this Iſland, as Ornaments for their Perſons.

Some *Cryſtal Balls*, which are ſaid to be uſed in cold Countries for warming the Hands, and (after being ſome Time kept in a Cellar) for cooling them in hotter Climates; but this is not certain, many imagining they were deſigned for other Uſes.

Marcaſites, bright glittering Stones, with a Mixture of Sulphur, or Arſenic,

to

to which they owe their Luſtre. Some Account is given of them Page 79. The *Indians* of *South America* give it the Rank of a precious Stone, and wear it in Ornaments about their Perſons. Here are ſome Drops and Rings made of it.

Some *Pieces* of *Coral* finely cut in various Shapes.

In this Table is a great deal of *Amber manufactured*, particularly, a fine *Cabinet*, a curious *Crab*, ſome *Bells*, *Beetles*, *Handles for Inſtruments*, &c. and ſome Pieces of *Amber*, in the Subſtance of which *Inſects* are *incloſed*.

We muſt next take Notice of a Peſtle, Mortar, and Plate of *Egyptian Porphyry*: It is to be remarked, that this is the hardeſt Stone of the opake Kind that has yet been found.

I ſhall conclude my Obſervations on the Contents of this Table, by informing the Reader, that there are a Variety of Utenſils of *Agat*, *Jaſper*, &c. ſuch as Spoons, Necklaces, Pendants, Rings,

Boxes, Buttons, &c. Theſe Matters are in very great Eſteem and Uſe among the *Turks*, *Arabians*, *Greeks*, *Perſians*, *Circaſſians*, and others, Inhabitants of the Eaſtern Parts of the World.

We find nothing more to mention in this Room, except the Collection of *Guſtavus Brander*, Eſq; (one of the Truſtees of the *Britiſh Muſeum)* which he has generouſly given to the Public. It is very curious, but conſiſts chiefly of ſuch Specimens as are likewiſe to be ſeen in the *Sloanian* Collection: I ſhall, therefore, not enlarge much on the Particulars.

In the Cabinet between the Windows are a great Variety of Incruſtations and Petrifactions, as Shells, Corals, and other Things: In the Petrifactions the original Subſtance is entirely changed to a Stone; in the others it is only completely covered with a ſtony Matter, the Subſtance ſtill retaining its priſtine Qualities. There are many Springs in *England* and elſewhere, which incruſtate whatever is left

left in them, for any length of Time, with a Stony Surface; and others have a Power of making an entire Change in the Subſtance of Wood, &c. giving it all the Properties of Stone. In ſome Places the Earth effects the ſame Thing on whatever is buried in it.

In the two large Tables are a very curious Collection of foſſil Shells, figured Foſſils, natural and ſimple Foſſils, and particularly of Minerals: I ſhall not take up much of the Reader's Time in making any long Remarks on theſe Articles. With reſpect to the figured Foſſils and foſſil Shells, I ſhall treat of them more at large, when I come to that Part of the *Sloanian* Collection, as the foſſil Shells may there be compared with ſuch as are recent: as to the Minerals and ſimple Foſſils, they have already been noticed, Page 80.

In the firſt Table I ſhall begin with a few Remarks on the foſſil Shells and figured Foſſils, with which it is filled.

Anomiæ. Theſe are a Kind of foſſil Shell, very frequently found in that State, but ſeldom recent, and ſcarcely ever perfect. They reſemble a Cockle, but are beaked.

Oſtracites, petrified Oyſters of different Kinds.

Pectinites. Under this Title are various foſſil Scollop Shells.

Ammonitæ, Snake-ſtones, frequently found in *England* and elſewhere, in the petrified State; but the recent is not yet known; ſome ſuppoſe it to be the *Nautilus.*

Nautiliti, Petrifactions reſembling the Nautilus. There is one very curious Specimen in this Collection. Theſe Kind of Petrifactions are frequently found in the Mines in *Derbyſhire.*

Belemnites, commonly called Thunderbolts in the Parts of *England* where they are found.

Echinites, Sea Hedgehogs, or Sea Eggs, the Cavities of which are entirely filled with Stone.

Echinorum

Echinorum Radioli, the Spines of the Sea Hedgehog petrified, generally found near them in the Earth.

Aſteriæ, Star-ſtones, are of an angular Figure, reſembling a Star, having more or leſs Points or Rays.

Coralloides, Some Specimens of foſſil Coral.

Foſſilia Univalva, foſſil Shells, conſiſting of one Piece or Part.

Foſſilia Bivalva, Oyſters, *&c.* where the Fiſh lodges in a Pair of Shells.

Conchites, foſſil Cockle Shells.

Cochlites, foſſil Shells of a ſpiral Form., as Snails, *&c.*

Foſſilia Multivalva, Shells where the Fiſh extends itſelf into many different Cells.

Zoolithi, Bones, either preſerved in the Stone, or petrified.

Ichthyolithi, Impreſſions of Fiſh on Stone, or petrified Parts of them.

Entomolithi, a Variety of Specimens of petrified Inſects.

We muſt now proceed to the other Table, where we find,

Phytolithi, Figures of Leaves and other Parts of Plants, very naturally repreſented on Pebbles, and ſome Pieces of petrified Wood.

Conchyl. Gallica, a Collection of Shells picked up on the South Coaſt of *France*; they are of various Kinds.

Graptolithi, ſome Specimens of figured Marble Slates, *&c.*

Conchyl. Hanton. A Collection of foſſil Shells found in *Hampſhire*, where they abound on the Hills.

Stalactites, Drop-ſtones, formed by Incruſtation, particularly in the Peak in *Derbyſhire.*

Gipſa, Several Specimens of the Gypſum, a Kind of Stone of which is made Plaiſter of *Paris.*

Spata, Spars of various Kinds.

Cryſtalla, Cryſtals.

Aſbeſti. } Under theſe Titles are depo-
Apyri. } ſited the Aſbeſtus or Cotton-Stone,

Stone, of which was formerly made the incombuſtible Linen, and other Stones, which can, without viſible Alteration, bear an intenſe Heat.

Marmor. *Iaſpid.* *Achat.* } Some Specimens of Marble, Jaſper, and Agate.

Sal. *Sulphur.* *Bitumen.* } Several Kinds of Salts and Brimſtones, together with Jet, Cannel Coal, and ſome Ambers.

Pyrit. Mundick or Marcaſite.

Semimetalla. Antimony, Biſmuth, Cobalt

Mineræ Auri et Argenti. } Gold and Silver Ores. Among them is one Piece of pure Gold in a white Stone, or Spar: the others are Silver mixed with Lead.

Min. Plumbi. Specimens of Lead Ore, without Mixture of Silver.

Cupri. Copper Ores, and the *Flores Veneris.*

Stanni. Tin Ores, with ſome Pieces of Block Tin.

Ferri. Iron Ores, with the *Flores Martis.*

Braſs is made by mixing a certain Quantity of the *Lapis Calaminaris*, or of *Zink*, with *Copper* in the melting.

Collectio Sloaniana.

The Room we are now about to make our Remarks on, contains a fine Collection of foſſil Shells, figured Foſſils, recent Shells, and ſome other Articles. This is not the leaſt Curious Part of the Muſeum; and the recent Shells here preſerved particularly claim the Attention of the Ladies; Many of them are very ſcarce and valuable, others remarkably beautiful.

To proceed with ſome Degree of Regularity, I ſhall firſt take Notice of the Contents of the Repoſitories, or Cabinets, round the Room, beginning with that on which is inſcribed

Stalactites. Theſe are a Kind of Stones formed by Droppings of Water, which being

being impregnated with certain Stony Particles, by Degrees petrifies, and grows to the Hardneſs of a Spar, and conſiſts of ſeveral Coats. Under this Head are comprehended all the various Kinds of Incruſtations, petrified Iſicles, Peas-ſtones, and other Kinds of Spars, that do not ſhoot from the Subſtance of the Rock, but inſenſibly encreaſe in Bulk, preſerving always a ſmooth and curious Surface. They are, for the moſt part, found in ſubterranean Caverns, in Grottos on the *Appenine* and *Pyrenean* Mountains, in *Derbyſhire*, and many other ſuch like Places; ſome of them reſemble Sugar Plumbs, and are called *Confetti di Tivoli*. Theſe laſt are of the Kind of Spars called *Stalagmodiaugia*. The *Stalactites* take many different Names, according to the Colour and Degree of Purity they poſſeſs. They are daily formed, which many found under the Arches of *Weſtminſter* Bridge, and in a Vault under the Terras at *Windſor*, ſufficiently teſtify.

We muſt here add the *Ludus Helmontii*, or Waxen Veins, as they are often called. This Stone conſiſts of ſeveral Pebbles bedded in a Maſs of pure Earth, which is grown to the Hardneſs of a Stone. It is to be obſerved, that the Matter which forms the Bed, and by which the Pebbles are ſo ſtrongly joined and cemented together, is of a purer Nature than the Pebbles themſelves are. This is not unfrequently found in many Parts of *England*, and is of conſiderable Value. The Matter by which theſe Pebbles are joined, is uſed in Medicine in Nephritic Complaints.

Under this Title are depoſited a *human Skull* and a *Sword*, both of which are completely covered over and incruſted with the ſame ſtony Subſtance to a conſiderable Thickneſs, yet without loſing their Form. They were found in the *Tyber* at *Rome*.

Ætites, Eagle Stones. *Pliny* the Naturaliſt ſays, that Eagles cannot hatch

their

their young without having one of these Stones in their Nest; but it is to be looked upon as a mere idle Fiction, the Experience of many succeeding Ages being far from warranting the Assertion. These Stones are formed of two different Substances, the one much harder and more compact than the other; the Nucleus, which is of a softer Matter than the Surface, shrinks as it petrifies, thereby leaving a Cavity between the harder Circumference and itself, and being of course loose, must naturally rattle.

Under this Title are classed all the hollow Pebbles; those which particularly bear this Name have another enclosed in the Cavity of them, which may be known by their rattling. In others is very plainly heard a Liquid, which, on opening them, is only found to be foul Water: this Kind is called *Enhydros*. When they have an earthy Matter inclining to the crystalline in them, they take the Name of *Geodes*; and when there are in

one

one Stone two or three Cavities, they have of late been ſometimes called *Lithotomi*. They have had many other Names, as *Eutocium*, *Echites*, *Erodialis*, *Aquileius*, and *Lapis pregnans*. Great Virtue has been by Women aſcribed to the Eagle-ſtone, it being thought by many, that, if it is worn above the Girdle, it prevents Abortion; if about the Knee, it helps Delivery: but this Virtue is ideal, and only a Conjecture formed from its being pregnant, as it were, of another Stone. Credulity and Superſtition often produce Fancies, which one is ſurpriſed to find People of Senſe and Reaſon ſometimes give way to; but ſuch is the Frailty of human Nature.

Helmintholithi. In this Claſs *Linnæus* ranks all the foſſil Shells. The Stones under this Title are ſuppoſed to have been originally a Kind of Coral, which, by being buried in the Earth for ſome conſiderable Space of Time, has at length arrived to a State of Petrifaction; but the

the Name imports Earth Worm Stones, upon a Suppoſition, that theſe foſſil Honeycombs, and all the other Kinds of Stones having regular ſmall Cavities, both round and ſtellated, like the ſubmarine Corals, might be formed by Earth Worms, which working many Paſſages through the Matter whereof the Stone was afterwards formed, occaſions thoſe Diverſifications in the Structure of them. But this is far from the Truth; for, was it ſo, all the Perforations would be round, or at leaſt approaching to a circular Figure; whereas many of them are ſtellated; and there could not be that Regularity in the Poſition of the Cavities, as is to be obſerved in theſe Stones, ſince it is not to be ſuppoſed, that Worms make their Paſſages in the Earth at any fixed Diſtance one from the other. Theſe Kind of Stones are generally found in the Clay Pits both here and abroad.

Our next Attention is claimed by a great Number of foſſil Shells, which are

preſerved

preſerved in this Room; we muſt make a few Remarks on thoſe contained under each Title.

Shells, as Foſſils, are divided into three Claſſes.

1ſt, Thoſe that are found in their natural State, without the Addition of any other Matter, or the Change of their Subſtance.

2dly, Thoſe that are petrified, having the Shell ſtill preſerved.

3dly, Stones in the Form of Shells, but without any Remains of the Pattern Shell, which occaſioned their having that Form.

The ſeveral Kinds of foſſil Shells are at leaſt as numerous as thoſe that are recent, and are found in the Earth in moſt Countries of the World, and in many Parts of *England*, particularly in the Mines in *Derbyſhire*, in the Rocks at *Beresford* in *Staffordſhire*, at *Alſtonfield*, in the ſame County, and in great Abundance in *Lincolnſhire* and *Gloceſterſhire*, beſides

beſides many other Places. They are ſuppoſed to have been either left at the univerſal Deluge, or elſe that the Sea, which was formerly more extenſive than it is now, left thoſe Relicts behind it, on its being confined to narrower Bounds.

The foſſil Shells are ranked under the following Titles.

Cochlites, Spiral or Snail Shells of various Kinds; ſome of the Specimens have the Shell entire, others are encruſted with a ſtony Subſtance, or quite petrified; and among them are ſome Caſts of Stone formed in the Shell of a large Nautilus, which has ſince periſhed, no Remains being left.

Ammonitæ, *Cornua Ammonis*, the Horns of *Jupiter Ammon*. They are generally called Snake-ſtones, and are found in moſt Parts of the Earth, but in *England* fineſt, and moſt perfect. The Size of them is various, from a Quarter of an Inch to more than two Feet in Diameter, but rarely ſo large. It is a Matter of Surprize,

prize, that ſo great a Number and Variety of them ſhould be conſtantly met with in the Strata of the Earth, in Mines and other ſubterranean Places, when no ſuch Shells are to be found in their recent State; this cannot eaſily be accounted for, unleſs it be conjectured, that the Fiſh which occupies the recent Shell, is an Inhabitant of the deepeſt Parts of the Ocean, and that nothing leſs than the Agitation occaſioned by the univerſal Deluge could remove it from its favourite Concealment: If that be the Caſe, it is no Wonder we find not this Shell in its recent State. There is a ſmall white Shell Fiſh of *Barbadoes*, which ſeems truly a recent Animal of this Genus; and in the *Eaſt Indies* there is another ſmall and greyiſh, but the large and beautifully marked ones are found only foſſile. The Snake-Stone is found of almoſt all Sizes in great Plenty in ſeveral Parts of *England*, particularly *Yorkſhire*.

Oſtracites,

Oſtracites, petrified Sea Shells of the bivalve Kind, being plain and common Oyſters of various Sizes; ſome are found ſingle, or only a Pair of Shells; others in Cluſters, being a great Number of Shells firmly united and cemented together. A particular Kind of *Oſtracites*, with longitudinal *Striæ*, are found in the Rocks at *Beresford* in *Staffordſhire*.

Anomiæ. *Conchæ Anomiæ*, are a Sort of bivalve Shell; the Valves of which are of unequal Extent, both of them convex, and the Head or Beak of the longer Valve crooked, and falling over the Head of the other; they are commonly called beaked Cockles. No Name has been given to the Fiſh that inhabits it; for the recent Shells of this Kind are ſo very rare that there is ſcarcely one to be found perfect. They are perhaps, as well as that which has given its Form to the *Cornu Ammonis*, Inhabitants of the deepeſt Parts of the Ocean; conſequently it muſt be ſome extraordinary Agitation of that great Body

of

of Water that can bring them at all to our Knowledge in their recent State.

Thoſe of the foſſil Kind are numerous enough in many Parts of *England*, and particularly in *Gloceſterſhire*, and ſome other Counties, they are as common on the ploughed Lands as Pebbles in other Places. Many of theſe Shells have the outward Surface ſmooth, and ſome of them have Ridges and Furrows, or are otherwiſe irregular on the Outſide, and are angular or corner'd inſtead of having circular Rims.

Conchites, ſome Specimens of bivalve Shells, being foſſil Oyſters and Muſcles, with circular Lines on the Outſide of the Shell. Theſe Kind of Foſſil Shells are often found in the Mines in *Derbyſhire*, and in the Rocks at *Beresford* in *Staffordſhire*.

Pectinites, Foſſil Shells of the ſcollop Oyſter Kind; they have longitudinal Lines or Furrows on the exterior Surface of the Shell;

Shell; they are alſo generally auriculated.

Echinites, petrified Sea Urchins, or Hedgehogs. Here are a great Variety of Specimens of this Kind of foſſil Shell; ſome of them are filled with Spar or Flint formed within the Shell; others have their Cavities taken up by various Kinds of earthy or ſtony Subſtances; this is for the moſt part governed by the Nature of the Place or Bed in which they are found. Some of the Specimens have their Surface ſmooth and even, in others it is covered with a Mixture of Excreſcences and Cavities, or diverſified with beautiful and regularly diſpoſed Lines; their Size and Form is various, according to their different Kinds. The Spines of theſe foſſil Shells are generally found near them, and of the ſame Subſtance: They abound moſt in Chalk Pits. The *Lapis Judaicus*, found in *Judea*, is of this Claſs: They are often called *Olive Stones*, from their bearing in Figure ſome

Re-

Reſemblance to an Olive. It is in reality the Spine of an Echinus filled with Spar; it is very beautifully fluted and ſtriated longitudinally; it is common in *Syria*, and ſometimes found with us.

Belemnites, vulgarly called Thunderbolts or Thunder Stones. They are compoſed of ſeveral Cruſts of Stone encircling each other, of a conical Form, and various Sizes; uſually a little hollow, and ſomewhat tranſparent, formed of ſeveral *Striæ* radiating from the Axis to the Surface of the Stone; and when burnt or rubbed againſt one another, or ſcraped with a Knife, yield an Odour like raſped Horn, their Size is various, from a quarter of an Inch to eight Inches; and their Colour and Shape differ. They are ſuppoſed to be originally either a Part of ſome Sea Production, or a Stone formed in the Cavity of ſome Worm Shell, which being of a tender and brittle Nature, has periſhed, after giving its Form to the Stone. They are very frequently found

in

in many Parts of *England*; and the common People have a Notion that they are always to be met with after a Thunder Storm. They are often encloſed in, or adhere to other Stones, and are moſt frequent amongſt Gravel, or in Clay; they abound in *Gloceſterſhire*, and are found near *Dedington* in *Oxfordſhire*, where they ſometimes contain the Silver Marcaſite.

Aſteriæ, Star-ſtones. Theſe are ſmall ſhort angular or ſulcated Columns, between one and two Inches long, and ſeldom above a third of an Inch in Diameter: compoſed of ſeveral regular Joints; when ſeparated, each reſembles a radiated Star; ſome have four, others five Rays or Points, either ſharp or rounded. The ſeveral Joints in the ſame Specimen are uſually of the ſame Thickneſs. The *Aſteria* is alſo called *Aſtrites*, *Aſtroites* and *Aſteriſcus*. They may be reduced to two Kinds; thoſe whoſe whole Bodies make the Form of a Star, and thoſe which in the whole are irregular, but are adorned as it were with

with Conſtellations in the Parts. The Quality of moving in Vinegar, as if animated is ſcarce perceivable in the latter Kind, but ſignal in the firſt. They are, not without Reaſon, ſuppoſed to be a Part of ſome Sea-fiſh petrified. The Curious frequently meet with them in many Parts of *England:* at *Cleydon* in *Oxfordſhire* they are found rather larger than common, but of a ſofter Subſtance; for, on being left a ſmall Space of Time in a ſtrong Acid, they may eaſily be ſeparated at the Joints in ſmall Plates.

The *Trochites* and *Entrochi* are nearly of the Subſtance and Size of the *Aſteriæ*, and of the ſame animal Origin, but not ſulcated; compoſed of a Number of round radiated Joints, reſembling in ſome meaſure ſo many ſmall Wheels, and generally found in Strata of Clay here and abroad.

The *Aſteriæ* are often picked up at *Cutworth* in *Northamptonſhire*, at *Shugbury* in *Warwickſhire*, and about *Belvoir-Caſtle*

Caſtle in *Lincolnſhire*; a ſmall Kind are found near *Laſſington* in *Gloceſterſhire*.

Ichthyolithi, petrified Parts of Fiſh. Among the Specimens are Slates of various Colours, with natural and diſtinct Marks in them, repreſenting the Skeleton of ſome Fiſh, or the Parts thereof.

In the Mines in *Derbyſhire* are found the petrified Bones of many Kinds of Fiſh; ſome of them bear an exact Reſemblance to the Vertebræ of a Flounder.

Under this Title we take Notice of the *Gloſſopetra*, formerly ſo called, becauſe it was imagined they were petrified Tongues; but they are in truth the Teeth of Sharks and other Fiſh, ſometimes adhering ſtrongly, and partly buried in a ſtony Subſtance, at others looſe; our more modern Naturaliſts have very properly called them *Ichtyodontes*.

Under this Title are alſo depoſited ſome Specimens of the *Bufonites*, or, as Dr. *Hill* more properly calls them, *Lycodontes*, as they are found to be the *Dentes*

Molares, or grinders of the Wolf-fiſh, petrified. They are found in *England*, *Germany*, and more particularly in the Iſland of *Malta*; they are commonly called Toad-ſtones, and are worn in Rings, having many imaginary Virtues attributed to them.

Siliquaſtræ, many Specimens of the Palates of various Kinds of Fiſh — *Petrified Crabs*, found in great Plenty in the Iſland of *Malta*.

Zoolithi, petrified Parts of Land Animals. Among other Specimens are the Grinders of an Elephant, *&c.* In the Mines in *Derbyſhire* are found Petrifactions reſembling the Feathers of Birds.

Phytolithi, petrified Plants. Here are a Number of Pieces of Wood turned into Stone. Though this Kind of Petrifaction ſtill preſerves the Appearance of the original Wood, it ſo far acquires the Hardneſs and Conſiſtency of Stone, that it may be poliſhed like Jaſper.

Under

Under this Title are many Specimens of Slates and Pebbles, having on them the perfect Figure of Fern and other Leaves; in some of them the Plant is immersed, but projects from others of the Stones. These Kind of Slates and Pebbles are frequently found at the Top of Coal Mines. Some of the Mines in *Somersetshire* have the Vein covered by a brittle Kind of soft Slate, which they call there Wark: It is easily separable into thin Plates, and, when divided, there is found on one of the Plates a protuberant Resemblance of a Fern Leaf.

At *Stamsop* in *Staffordshire* are often found Stones in the Form of Vegetables of various Kinds; and some have the exact Figure of different Sorts of Fruit, as Pears, *&c.* and many of them resemble the Shell of an Almond, or a Peach-stone.

Graptolithi, figured Slates. They are a soft Kind of Marble, and have by Nature delineated on them very lively Re-

preſentations of Shrubs, Trees, Landſcapes, Ruins, &c. and are found in great Quantities in ſeveral Parts of *Germany*. It is the Opinion of a great Naturaliſt, and there is a great Probability of its being the Truth, that theſe Figures are occaſioned by mineral Exhalations, which ſtaining the original ſoft Matter of which the Slate is afterwards formed, the Traces remain, and continue viſible after the Slate has attained its ſtony Conſiſtence, whence that Variety of natural Pictures to be ſeen in theſe Specimens.

Terræ, Earths, are the various Kinds of earthy Matter found in digging. They are friable, opake, inſipid Bodies, not inflammable, vitrifiable by extreme Heat, diffuſible in Water, and ſeparable from it by Filtration. They are divided into ſimple and compound; the ſimple comprehends the Boles, Clays, Marles, Ochres, and Tripelas; the compound takes in the Loams and Moulds. When uſed in Medicine, the different Kinds have va-

rious

rious Names, as *Bolus Armena*, *Armenian* Bole, vulgarly called *Bole Armoniac :* the beſt is of a paliſh red, ſoft, and fattiſh to the Palate, and adheres ſtrongly to the Tongue: it is uſed as an Aſtringent and a Vulnerary. *Terra Lemnia*, *Terra Samia*, *Terra Sigillata.* — Theſe are all Aſtringents and Abſorbents, but have not the Virtues of the *Bolus Armena* firſt mentioned.

Calculi, Stones or Balls found in the Stomach or other Parts of the Inteſtines of Animals. The largeſt are found in Horſes, and ſome of an oval Shape in the Stomachs of Camels. The Rhinoceros ſometimes has them; and hairy Balls are ſometimes found in the Maws of Oxen. This is the Caſe of thoſe that are ſtalled to fat for the Market; the Beaſt will ſometimes, when almoſt fit for ſlaughter, ſuddenly pine, and loſe its Fleſh, continually licking its Hide, by which Means the Balls of Hair gather in the Maw. The beſt Remedy is to turn him looſe

for ſome Hours every Day in a good Paſture, by which Means he will ſoon return to his thriving Condition, and fat apace.

Under this head are depoſited the Bezoars; they are found in the Inteſtines of an *Indian* Goat, and have been deemed of great Uſe in Medicine, but are not now ſo much in Eſteem; they are ranked among the Alexipharmics. The oriental Bezoar is moſt valuable, and of them ſuch are to be preferred as ſtrike a deep green upon a chalked Paper. It is very dear, and ſhould be a chief Ingredient in the *Gaſcoign's Powder*, to which it gives its Colour; but the expreſſed Juice of Violets has been often uſed for that Purpoſe, inſtead of the Bezoar. Nay, a certain Profeſſor of Phyſic told me ſome Years ago, that the *Gaſcoign's Powder* has been imitated by only making Balls of Pipe-makers Clay mixed with Animal Gall; and many were by this Means impoſed

poſed on. When Medicines are ſo dear, they are very liable to be counterfeited.

The Stone found in the Chamoiſe, Porcupine, and Monkey, are ſuppoſed to have the ſame Virtues, being deemed a Kind of Bezoar; and moreover, there is attributed to them a much greater medicinal Power by many credulous People; for they have been often worn as Charms, or Preſervatives againſt Diſeaſes.

The largeſt Stone of this Kind the Author of theſe Sheets ever ſaw, or indeed heard of, to have been taken out of the Body of any Animal, is now in the Poſſeſſion of a Miller, who lives at a little Village near *Bures* in *Suffolk*; it was found in the Body of a Mare, which died ſoon after dropping a Foal. The Beaſt expired in ſuch Agonies, that the Owner had the Curioſity to have her opened, and by that Means diſcovered this wonderful Stone. It is nearly of a globular Figure, of a browniſh Colour, and would but juſt lay in the Crown of my Hat.

The Weight of it I do not recollect; its Diameter might, at a Medium, be eight or nine Inches: it was not, however, ſo heavy, as from its Size one would imagine, or as a natural Stone of that Size would be.

What we have laſt to take notice of under this Title, are the ſeveral Specimens of Stones extracted from human Bodies, the larger from the Urine Bladder, the ſmall from the Gall Bladder, and the others were formed in the Kidneys. There are ſome which were occaſioned by the Party's ſwallowing the Stones of Cherries and other Fruits, a Cruſt of ſtony Matter firſt gathering on them, they afterwards increaſe in Bulk, and cauſe the moſt violent Pains, not unfrequently Death itſelf. Many Remedies have been offered to the Public for this dreadful Diſorder, but none of them are to be depended on; ſome not anſwering the Purpoſe intended, others being too rough in their Operation. A proper Stone

Diſſolvent

Diſſolvent would be a great Acquiſition to Medicine.

We are now come to a Part of the Muſeum which will, it is imagined, particularly attract the Attention of the Ladies; I mean, the recent Shells preſerved in this Collection: but it will not be poſſible in the Compaſs of this ſmall Work, to make ſuch accurate Remarks on them as is due to the Singularity and Beauty of many here depoſited. I muſt recommend to my Reader to attend to the Specimens, which are very numerous, as we ſhall only notice a few of the moſt curious under each Title. The Virtuoſi may find almoſt every Species that is now known among the Univalves and Bivalves, the Multivalves not being yet exhibited to public View in their Order; but the particularly curious may ſee many Specimens of them, if they requeſt it of the Officers of the Houſe.

In the Remarks on this Collection of recent Shells, they will be taken in the

Order in which they are now depoſited under their ſeveral Titles: a ſmall Deſcription of each Kind, and the Names of a few of the moſt remarkable Shells, will be ſufficient to anſwer our preſent Purpoſe.

One of the large Tables contains a Part of the Univalves, or Shells conſiſting of one Piece or Part.

Echini Marini. Theſe are ſometimes called Centroniæ and Cidares. The Sea Hedgehog, or Urchin, the Sea Egg, or the Sea Cake, are the Names of the different Kinds of it in *Engliſh.* Moſt of them are of a globular Figure, ſometimes with, at other times without, Spines, beſet with a great Number of regularly ranged Tubercles, and with Apertures more or leſs in Number, as far as ſix or ſeven. Many of them are of a flat depreſſed Figure, when they are called Placentæ, or Sea Cakes, and they are not unfrequently inclined to an oval Form, when they bear the Name of Sea Eggs.

When

When the Fiſh that inhabits this Shell is alive, it is generally armed with a great Number of Spines, or Prongs, which are moveable at the Animal's Pleaſure, by means of Muſcles that communicate with the Spines through the Papillæ of the Shell. The Animal uſes theſe Spines both for its Defence, and inſtead of Legs to enable it to move from Place to Place. When the Fiſh dies, theſe Spines are very apt to fall off, which diſcovers the Papillæ to which they were joined, and a great Number of regularly diſpoſed Excreſcences on the outward Surface of the Shell, wherever there was a Spine, one may perceive the Shell perforated.

Among the Specimens of the *Echini* are the round Sea Eggs, with beautiful Ranges of Tubercles; the rounded flattiſh Sea Eggs, with large Papillæ, each ſet round with ſmall Tubercles; the oval, flat, radiated, and undulated Sea Eggs, without Spines; many flat Placentæ, or Sea Cakes; ſome few of the Specimens

yet retain their Spines, by which may be ſeen the Manner of their Diſpoſition.

Echinorum Radioli. Many Specimens of the Spines of the different Kinds of Echini, preſerved in their recent State as they drop from the Shell; they differ in Length and Thickneſs, ſome of them being very ſmall and ſharp, others large and obtuſe.

Patellæ, Limpet Shells; theſe are of a gibbous Shape, the Apex or Summit of the Shell is ſometimes whole, at others perforated; not unfrequently ſharp pointed, often obtuſe. The Fiſh adheres very firmly to the Rocks, and is covered by one of theſe Shells. Some of the Specimens here preſerved are very curious; many have circular Ridges, others are radiated. The Deck and Chambered Patellæ are worth Notice; in ſome, half the Circumference is dentated, not unlike the Wheel of a Watch. They are chiefly found in the warmer Climates, particularly the *Eaſt Indies* and *South America*.

Aures

Aures Marinæ, Sea Ears, commonly called the Ear Shell. This is of a broad and flattiſh Figure, inclining to oval, almoſt ſpiral at one Extremity, and has an Aperture nearly as large as the Shell, round the Edge of which are more or leſs Perforations, and the Marks of others that do not go quite through the Shell. This is no uncommon Shell; it is therefore needleſs to enlarge on it, the Specimens exhibited will give the Reader a ſufficient Idea of it.

Cochleæ, Sea, Land, and freſh Water Snails; theſe are a ſpiral Shell, with a depreſſed Clavicle, are umbilicated, and have a Surface ſometimes ſmooth, but more frequently furrowed, or covered with Tubercles; the Mouth of this Kind of Shell is circular. Among the Specimens under this Title are, the Belted Snail, the Ribbon Snail, the Cornu Ammonis Cochlea, ſome very curious Snails, whoſe ſpiral Turns are reverſed, and others are dentated; and in a few the

ſpiral

ſpiral Turns of the Shell are in Part covered by the laſt Volution.

Neritæ, are a Kind of ſemicircular mouthed (ſemilunaris) Cochlea, often dentated; ſome have exerted Apices, others depreſſed, and many of them are umbilicated: they generally inhabit Caverns on the Sides of Rocks, where the Fiſh ſtick faſt to the Stone. Of the Specimens ſome are faſciated, others reticulated, and in Colour various, as white, green, black, and yellow: Among them are many that are called Bead Shells, and others Pea Shells.

Trochi, Top Shells, ſo called from ſome ſmall Reſemblance they bear to a Boy's Top. The are a Kind of Cochlea, ſomewhat approaching to the Form of a Cone, but the Summit ſometimes more depreſſed, and they are not unfrequently dentated; the Inſide of the Shell is of a moſt beautiful Mother of Pearl Colour; many are rough, others ſmooth, faſciated, or wavy; of all which there are Specimens,

mens, as well as of the prickly Trochus or Spur Shell from the *Eaſt Indies*, and others.

Buccina, Trumpet Shells. This Kind of Shell reſembles in Form the Trumpet, as it is repreſented in old Sculptures and Paintings: It is a ſpiral Shell with a wide Belly, and a large, broad, and elongated Mouth, of an oval Figure, with a crooked Beak; the ſpiral Volutions of this Shell differ in Number, being ſometimes ſix, at others ten or twelve, and one Kind has the Volutions reverſed.

Strombi, are a Kind of Turbines, the Tower of Babel, the Mitre Shell, the Spindle, and ſome others are ranked under this Title; but they are ſeldom by the Naturaliſts mentioned as a diſtinct Kind.

Turbines, Screw Shells. This Kind has a long, wide, and depreſſed Mouth, often approaching to a circular Form, ſometimes dentated, at others not; it grows narrow towards the Baſe, is auriculated, and

and terminates in a very long and ſharp Point; but the Form of the different Kinds of Turbo in ſome Reſpects varies. The moſt curious Specimens under this Title, and worthy Obſervation, are Unicorn Whelks, Teleſcopes, the Needle Shell, the Screw Shell particularly ſo called, the Ribbon Turbo, the narrow ſpired Turbo, and others that are variegated with Tubercles, and ſtriated Lines of different Colours; but what more eſpecially merits Attention among theſe Shells, is the Wendel Trap, ſo named by the *Dutch*, who find it in their Spice Iſlands; it is often ſold for ſixteen and twenty Guineas, and ſometimes more: In *England* it is called the Royal Stair Caſe.

Murices. The Murex is a ſulcated Shell, beſet with ſmall Spines and Tubercles, with a rough Clavicle, exerted near the Summit in moſt Kinds, in others depreſſed; the Mouth is long and always expanded, ſometimes dentated; in many the Lip is digitated, in others elated, folded,

folded, or jagged; the Columella is ſometimes rough, at others ſmooth: Under this Title are to be ſeen Wing Shells, the Muſic Shell, the ribbed Muſick Shell, the brown Murex with many Spines, the Turban, the Helmet, a Variety of yellow Shells, and many Spider Shells: The Fiſh that inhabits the Murex, furniſhed the ancient *Greeks* and *Romans* with that curious Dye, which was in ſuch high Eſtimation among them. We muſt now conduct the Reader to the other Table, which contains the Remainder of the Shells.

Purpuræ. This Kind of Shell is jagged, and beſet all over with Tubercles, Spines, Umbo's or Striæ; the Mouth or Aperture is ſmall, and approaching to a circular Figure; the Tail is ſhort, and the Baſe uſually runs out into a long Beak: This is a very beautiful Species. Among the Specimens are the Woodcock Shell, the thorny or prickly Woodcock, the Endive Shell, the Caltrop Shell, and

many

many others. The Spines of the Purpuræ differ, being more or leſs ſharp, and in Number various; both this Kind and the Murex are found in great Plenty in the Gulph of *Tarentum*.

Dolia, Tun Shells. Theſe have a globoſe or round Belly, a lax Aperture or Mouth, ſometimes ſmooth, at others dentated; the Clavicle is either very little umbonated or depreſſed; the Columella in ſome Species ſmooth, in others wrinkled; and the outward Surface is always variouſly ſulcated, therein differing from the Bulla. Among the Specimens, thoſe moſt worthy Notice are the Ethiopian Crown, the ſeveral Kinds of Harp Shells, the variegated ribbed Tun Shell, ſome Perſian Shells, and many others, which it would take up too much Room particularly to mention.

Bulla, Boat Shells, are a Kind of *Dolia*, but differ from them in that their Surface is ſmooth, whereas the *Dolia* are always ſulcated; the ſpiral Volutions of this Shell

in

in ſome Kinds are not contiguous near the Clavicle, and are frequently armed there with Spines. The Gondola Shells, the Perſian Crowns, and many Shells that reſemble Figs and other Fruit, are depoſited under this Title.

Rhombi Cylindri, Olive Shells. This Shell is often ranked among the Volutæ; but it differs from it, in that the Voluta is of a conic Figure, whereas this Kind is nearly of an equal Size at both Ends: It is of an oblong cylindric Form, has an oblong Mouth or Aperture, and the Clavicle is not unfrequently ſeparated from the Body of the Shell by a Circle; the Columella in ſome ſmooth, in others rough. Some of the Shells of this Kind are called Stampers, others Maſks.

Volutæ, Volutes. This and the Kind laſt mentioned are often ranked under the ſame Title. The Voluta is of a conic Figure, has an oblong Mouth or Aperture, the Clavicle ſometimes erect, often depreſſed, in ſome Specimens coronated at

the

the Top. One of the Extremities of this Shell is of a pyramidical Figure, the other formed into high Ribs which conſtitute a depreſſed Clavicle, or a dentated Crown; the Head is ſeparated from the Body of the Shell by a high Rib. Among the Specimens are the Admiral, Vice-Admiral, Tyger Shells, Hebrew Letters, the Onyx Shell, many coronated Volutes, and ſeveral Kind of Leopard Shells.

Porcellanæ, Porcellain Shells. The Porcellana is of a conglobated oblong gibboſe or umbonated Form, and has for a Mouth or Aperture, a long and narrow Slit, dentated on each Side. A few of the moſt curious of this Kind are, the Arabian Letter Shell, the Map Shell, the Argus, and Falſe Argus, the Tortoiſe Porcellain, the Beetle, the *Chineſe* and Boat Porcellain, the Atlas Porcelain, Mole Porcellains, and one Specimen of that Kind called the Weavers Shuttle. The common Cowries, or Guinea Money, come under this Title.

Nautili,

Nautili, Sailor Shells. The *French* call this Kind *L. Voilier*. It has been conjectured that Men firſt learned the Uſe of Sails from the little Fiſh that inhabits it. It often ſwims on the Surface of the Sea, throwing out a Membrane that ſerves it inſtead of Sail; and it has other Parts which it uſes as Oars and a Rudder. It is a ſpiral Shell, with a large and roundiſh Aperture; the laſt Volution is remarkably large in Proportion to the reſt, otherwiſe not unlike ſome Kind of Snails that have depreſſed Clavicles. The whole Shell is by Partitions divided into ſeveral Chambers, which communicate one with the other by Means of a ſmall Pipe in each Partition. Among the Specimens, one of the Shells is cut vertically in ſuch a Manner as to diſcover the different Concamerations. Worth obſerving are the ſmall thin Nautilus, the Paper Nautilus from the *Mediterranean*, and ſome from the *Eaſt Indies*, in Size various, many in their natural State, others poliſhed. It has

has been conjectured that the *Cornu Ammonis*, deſcribed among the foſſil Shells, takes it Shape from ſome Species of the Nautilus; but this is far from being aſcertained.

Dentalia, Tooth Shells. This is a ſhelly Tube, reſembling the Tuſk of an Elephant, or the Horn of ſome Animal, which is a little bent: Some of them are ſmooth, others ſtriated; the ſmooth Kind are white, and not unfrequently tipped with red; the others often white, ſometimes green. The common Tooth Shell, the Dog Tooth Shell, and others are to be ſeen among the Specimens.

Vermicularia, Worm-ſhells, are of a very irregular Shape, and nothing but a Kind of teſtaceous Covering the Sea Worms inhabit. They are generally found in Cluſters, often ſticking to the Bottom of Ships after a long Voyage.

We are now come to a Concluſion of our ſmall Remarks on the Univalves, and muſt in a regular Progreſſion proceed to take

take Notice of the Bivalves, with which the Remainder of this Table is filled.

Oſtrea, Oyſters. This Shell conſiſts of two Parts joined together by a Hinge, being a ſtrong Membrane; one of the Parts of the Shell is moſt frequently flat, the other moderately globular, and have circular Striæ; but their general Form is various, in the ſeveral Kinds. We find here preſerved a great Variety of the ſcarcer Sorts; among the reſt, the Thorny Oyſter, the Prickly Oyſter, the Hammer and Saddle Oyſter, of which ſome have the Valves joined in a Manner more particularly reſembling a Hinge. Here are alſo ſome Specimens of tranſparent round flat Oyſters, uſed in ſome Part of the *Eaſt Indies* inſtead of Glaſs.

Pectines, Scollop Shells, are of a flatted Shape, and the Valve ſhut cloſe in all Parts. They differ from the Oyſter in that they are auriculated, and are ſtriated in the Manner of a Comb, longitudinally. The moſt curious of this Kind are the Mantle

Mantle Scollops of various Colours, particularly the Ducal Mantle, the Marbled Scollop, the Coral Scollop, and others.

Cordia, Heart-ſhells. Both the Valves of this Shell are convex, and they are not auriculated, often confounded with the Pectines. Venus's Heart, the Noah's Ark, the Ox Heart, Human Heart, Thorny Hearts and Speckled Heart Shells, are the moſt curious among them.

Chamæ. This Kind is for the moſt Part ſmooth, though in ſome Places a little rugoſe; the Valves are equal, elate and convex, and the Mouth gapes, being cloſed in ſome Places, not in others; it has longitudinal Furrows, and very deep, ſometimes is armed with Spines; it is of a rounder Figure than the Tellina, and thicker. The Concha Veneris, uſed by the Ancients to form Baſſo Relievos with different coloured Grounds, in the ſame Manner our Lapidaries exerciſe their Ingenuity on Onyxes, was of this Kind. The Roman Mantle, the Arabian Shell,

the

the yellow Chama, the Baſket Shell, and the reticulated white Chama, are curious.

Tellinæ, are a Kind of beautiful Muſcles, common enough in *Italy*, particularly about *Rome*; their Form inclines to an Oval, and the Shell thin. For the moſt part when they are ſeen in Muſeums, the outer Coat is taken off, which occaſions their having that ſplendid Appearance; ſome ſuch are to be ſeen in this Collection, and others in their natural State. The flat Tellina with white Faſciæ, the broad flat Tellina from the *Weſt Indies*, the narrow Tellina, and others, are worthy to be preſerved.

Muſculi, Muſcles of the ſmaller Sizes. Some of the Specimens have Pearls fixed to the Inſide of the Shell, occaſioned by its having been by ſome Means or other accidentally injured.

We have now done with the Tables of Shells; if the Remarks that are made on them are thought too conciſe, it muſt be conſidered that they could not be treated

of more at large without ſwelling theſe Sheets to a larger Size than the Author intends they ſhall extend to. Of the many Readers which he hopes to have, moſt of them will, no doubt, think that Part of the Collection which particularly ſuits his Taſte and engages his Attention, too ſlightly treated of. But it is impoſſible to pleaſe every one. Such muſt with Patience wait till the general Account of the Muſeum is publiſhed at large by the Officers of the Houſe. Their Curioſity will then be fully ſatisfied; as, the Abilities of the Authors conſidered, the Catalogue will doubtleſs be ſuch, as to merit the particular Attention and Encouragement of the Public.

The Reader muſt now be directed to the firſt of the ſmall Tables, which contains a Number of Handles for Daggers, Knives and Forks; ſome Seals, Heads of Canes, or walking Sticks, and the Hilt of a Sword. Theſe are all made either of *Agate*, *Mocoe Stone*, *Onyx*, *Cornelian*,

lian, *Jaſper*, *Bloodſtone*, or *Nephritic Stone*, *&c.* There are alſo ſome Turkiſh and Perſian Daggers, ſuch as it was formerly cuſtomary for them to wear at their Girdles, and ſome Knives with the Blades inlaid with Gold. There is one in particular which has a Point of Gold, and is by many credulous People thought to have been tranſmuted by ſome Alchymiſt who poſſeſſed the much talked of Secret of the Philoſopher's Stone.

In the other ſmall Table in this Room are preſerved a great Number and Variety of Cups, Diſhes, Boxes, *&c.* made of *Agate*, *Mocoe Stone*, *Cornelian*, and *Jaſpers*. They differ much one from the other as well in Form as Colour.

There is very little more to be noticed in this Part of the Collection, if we except a Set of Figures repreſenting Miners, in the ordinary Dreſſes they wear, in *Bohemia*, *Saxony*, and other Parts of *Germany*. With them are to be ſeen the Tools they uſe in their Work; and here is alſo a

View of a Mine, ſhewing their Huts, Ladders, &c. The Crucifixes belong to them, as being commonly ſeen about the Entrance of Mines ſituated in thoſe Places where the *Roman Catholic* Religion prevails. But neither the Crucifixes, the View of the Mine, or the Miners, are ſo curious as to merit any particular Attention; eſpecially in a Muſeum where there are ſuch a Number of Articles ſo much more worthy of Remark.

We ſhall finiſh what we have to ſay of this Room, by directing the Reader to the Tuſks of an Elephant, one tolerably perfect, the other half periſhed, and ſome other Bones of this large Animal. Theſe are all ſaid to have been found in a certain Place near *Gray's-Inn-Lane*, very deep in the Ground. It is not improbably ſuppoſed to have been the Remains of one that was brought over here in the Time that the *Romans* were Maſters of *Britain*.

Collectio Sloaniana.

The Reader will now prepare himſelf for the Remarks that are to be made on the Contents of the next Room, which are no leſs curious and worthy of Notice than thoſe we have already gone through. To begin with the Repoſitories, or Cabinets, the firſt we meet with are

Vegetabilia. Fructus. Ligna.

Under theſe Titles are comprehended a great Variety of foreign Fruits, different Kinds of aromatic and other curious Woods, many Sorts of Gum, Barks, and a numerous Train of other vegetable Productions. We ſhall firſt direct the Reader to the Scythian Lamb, otherwiſe called Baromez, Barometz, or Baranetz. It is the Root of a Plant much like Fern that grows in *Muſcovy*. It is ſaid that the Nature of it is ſuch, that it will ſuffer no Plant whatever to thrive near it. Its Root is covered by a ſort of Down reſembling Wool, and there are Shoots, or

Fibres, which ſerve well enough to repreſent the Legs and Horns of the vegetable Animal. A very little Help of the Imagination makes it altogether a tolerable Lamb. Many ſtrange Qualities have been given to this Production, and as ſtrange Stories told of it; ſome having deſcribed it with a Skin like a real Lamb, but of a much ſuperior Value; others have ſaid that Wolves delighted to feed on it, beſides many more Fictions too tedious to take notice of here; inſomuch that ſome were inclined to believe there was no ſuch Thing in Nature.

Here we find many Specimens of the various Kinds of the Apocynum, or Silk Graſs, common in the *Eaſt* and *Weſt Indies*, where they apply it to ſeveral Uſes. The different Kinds of Cotton are to be ſeen as it grows in the *Indies*, ſome of it burſting from the Pod.

A great Number and Variety of Calabaſhes, of which the *Indians* of *America* make many of their Houſhold Utenſils; ſome

ſome Sea Coccoons and Sope Berries. Theſe laſt are the Fruit of a Tree growing in ſome of the *Weſt India* Iſlands, and *Africa*, the Pulp of which has all the Qualities of Sope.

Echino Melocactus, by *Linnæus* called *Cactus*, the Turkiſh Cap, or Thiſtly Melon. There are many Kinds of this Plant, which is extremely curious; they commonly grow on the ſteep Sides of Rocks in the warmeſt Parts of *America*, their Root ſhooting deep into the Fiſſures of the Rock, requiring very little Earth to nouriſh them. Several Sorts of Spices and Drugs, *&c.* as Cloves, which are the Fruit of a large Tree, having Leaves like the Laurel; it grows in the *Molucca* Iſlands: the Oil extracted from them is often preſcribed in Medicine. Pepper, as growing on the Branches; it is brought from *Malabar*, *Sumatra*, *Mocho*, and other Parts of the *Eaſt Indies*. The Black Pepper grows upon a weak climbing Plant, with large oval pointed Leaves; that which pro-

duces the Long Pepper, is not very different, and grows in the ſame Places. Pimento, or *Jamaica* Pepper, grows on a Plant not unlike that which produces the Clove, but not ſo large. Nutmegs grow in the Iſland of *Banda*, in the *Eaſt Indies*, and in ſome few other Places, on a Tree about the Size of a large Standard Apricot, which bears a Fruit not unlike it in Shape and Size: its Leaf is like the Almond, but not ſerrated; the Nutmeg is contained within the Pulp of the Fruit, and the Mace cleaves cloſe to the Shell of it. Cardamoms are a Seed brought us from *Java*, *Malabar*, and other Parts of the *Eaſt Indies*. Tamarinds are the Produce of both the *Indies*, and the Fruit of a large Tree of the Palm Kind; they make a pleaſant Sweatmeat, and very wholeſome.

Beans of different Kinds, Colours, and Sizes. The Anacardium, *Orientale & Occidentale*; the Molucca Bean, and Caſhew Nut; the firſt comes from the *Eaſt Indies*,

is

is encloſed in two Skins, between which is a ſtrong cauſtic Oil; the Kernel is pleaſant to the Taſte. The other is in Shape like a Windſor Bean, with two Skins, encloſing the ſame Kind of Oil and a Kernel; it is brought from *Jamaica*. There are frequently caſt on Shore in the north-weſt Iſlands of *Scotland*, a Sort of Fruit, called by ſome *Orkney* Beans, which are not the Produce of any Part of *Europe*, but of *America*. Sir *Hans Sloane* procured four Species of them, and found that he had himſelf gathered them in the Iſland of *Jamaica*. The firſt Sort was a Kind of Kidney Bean, called by him the great perennial Kidney Bean, with a great crooked Lobe. This is a Native of the *Eaſt* and *Weſt Indies*.

The ſecond Kind was the Horſe Eye Bean of *Jamaica*, deſcribed by Sir *Hans*, and is found in other hot Countries. The third Kind was that called in *Jamaica* the Aſh-coloured Nickar Nut, from being like a Nickar or Marble that Boys

play with. This is common in the *Eaſt* and *Weſt Indies*.

The fourth Kind was a *Jamaica* Fruit not yet fully known. It is not eaſy to account how they ſhould be driven to ſuch a Diſtance from the Place of their Growth, unleſs by the Winds and Currents.

We meet here with the Heads and Fruits of Palm Trees, and alſo ſome Tea Nuts, Cocoa Nuts, Acacia, Coffee Berries, which laſt is the Fruit of a Kind of Jeſſamine, with a Leaf like a Cheſnut, and a white ſweet Flower: It grows in *Arabia* and the *Weſt Indies*. Some Specimens of Millet, Guinea Corn, and Maiz. The *Indians* in *New England*, and other Parts of *North America*, had no other Vegetable but Maiz to make their Bread of; they call it Weachin; the Ear of Maiz yields more Grain than any of our Corn Ears. There are commonly about eight Rows of Grain in the Ear (and more if the Ground be good) each of which contains

tains at leaſt thirty Grains, and theſe are larger than any Grain of our corn; their Colour varies. The Maiz of *Virginia* grows ſeven or eight Feet high; that of *New England* is ſhorter, and the *Indians* up in the Country have a yet ſhorter Kind in Uſe. The Stalk of the Maiz is full of Sap, and has much ſweet Juice in it, of which in all Probability Sugar might be made. We muſt particularly take Notice of the Bark Lace. The Tree that produces it is called *Logetto*, or the Bark Tree, the inner Bark of which conſiſts of Fibres diſpoſed in a reticular Figure, and bears ſome Reſemblance to Lace. It is often, by curious People, made up into Ruffles, *&c.* Here is preſerved a Kind of Shirt or Garment of it, being the entire inner Bark taken off the Body of one of theſe Trees.

We now come to ſome Roots, of which there are many Specimens; as Ginſeng, which is in high Eſtimation in *China* and *Japan*, being deemed an excellent Cepha-

lic, and good for the Spirits and Nerves; it uſed formerly to be ſold for its Weight in Gold in *Europe*, and is yet very dear in the *Indies*, but not much valued here: The *Chineſe* do not eſteem that which grows in *America*, valuing only their own. Rattle Snake Root, Contrayerva, and others. And there are a great Variety of Gums, as Gum Elemi, Galbanum, Copal, Styrax, *&c.* and ſome aromatic and other foreign Woods. Camphor, the Wood from which the Gum or Roſin of this Name is extracted; it grows in *China*, and ſome other Parts of the *Eaſt Indies*. The Benzoin, which alſo produces a Gum, and many others.

Spongiæ. In the Repoſitory under this Title are a great Number of Specimens of the different Kinds of Spunge, ſome very large. They are a Sea Production, and have been long ranked among the Number of Vegetables that the Sea produces, but how properly is not yet by

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our modern Naturaliſts abſolutely determined.

The Repoſitories that follow contain the different Kinds of Coral under their ſeveral Titles. It would take up too much Room to enlarge on them; we ſhall, however, proceed to give the Inſcriptions, and a few Words upon each Sort. The firſt that preſents itſelf is,

Keratophyta. This Title comprehends the ſeveral Kinds of black Coral, called alſo *Antipathes*, *Lithophyton*, and *Pſeudocorallium.* The Specimens here preſerved conſiſt of Sea Fans, Sea Willows, Sea Firs, and others of the like Sort, having their Names given them from a faint Reſemblance they bear to thoſe Things.

Corallia. All the different Kinds of Coral have, till of late, been ranked in the vegetable Kingdom, being thought to be Sea Plants; but Mr. *Ellis* has publiſhed a Work, in which he endeavours to prove they are of the Animal Kind: the Matter,

Matter, however, is not yet quite ſettled among the Naturaliſts. Under this general Head are ſome Specimens of Coral faſtened to Pieces of Ships, on Bottles, Pieces of Coin, *&c.* in the ſame Manner that Barnacles faſten themſelves to a Log of Wood; and alſo ſome of the black Coral.

Madrepora, comprehends all the Corals that have ſtellated Perforations. The Species of the Madrepora are by the Naturaliſts made very numerous. In this Repoſitory are ſeveral Brainſtones, Sea Muſhrooms, and many other Specimens, ſome white, and others of a red or pink Colour.

Millepora. All the Corals that have Perforations which are neither ſtellated nor radiated, are ranked in this Claſs. The Specimens conſiſt of many branched Corals, ſome large and very curious.

Eſchara. Under this Title are depoſited a Species of Coral, ſome of which reſembles woven Cloth, or the Leaf of a Tree,

Tree, others Network. They conſiſt of the common retiporous Eſchara, the foliaceous retiporous Eſchara, and others, ſome of them very large.

Tubularia. This Species is by *Linnæus* called *Tubipora.* It is generally of a purple Colour, and is compoſed of many hollow Tubes or Pipes of Coral iſſuing from the ſame Stock. The Specimens of it are curious, varying in Colour.

After having made theſe ſhort Remarks on the Nature of the ſeveral Kinds of Coral, it will not be amiſs to mention four Tables of Sea Productions chiefly of the Coral Kind, diſpoſed in their ſeveral Claſſes in the Form of Landſcapes. They are the Gift of Mr. *Ellis*, who, as the Reader has already been informed, has wrote on the Subject. There being in each of theſe Tables a ſhort Account of the Contents, it is quite unneceſſary to be more particular.

Nidi Inſectorum, Neſts of Inſects. An Enquiry into this Part of Natural Hiſto-

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ry is very amuſing and entertaining, ſo great is the Variety contained in it; for not only every diſtinct Claſs of Inſects has a Manner peculiar to itſelf to preſerve and continue the Species, but every diſtinguiſhed Part of each Claſs varies in this Particular, yet all of them follow the invariable Law that God and Nature has taught them; aſſiſted by an Inſtinct, which Man, with all his boaſted Reaſon, cannot with any Propriety account for. For Inſtance, the Waſps do not all make their Neſts alike; ſome are very large, as a Kind of *American* Waſp, ſeveral of which Neſts are here depoſited; another, which comes from *Newfoundland*, reſembles a Roſe; and thoſe entirely covered with Clay, which are of two Kinds, one plain, fabricated by a ſmall black Waſp, the other is a wreathed tubulated Clay neſt, and theſe are built by a purpliſh black Waſp; they are both the Produce of *Penſylvania*; yet all theſe differ from the common Waſp's Neſt. There are many other Varieties in

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the Work of this Inſect; but it would take up too much Time to enlarge more on the Subject, eſpecially as what has been already ſaid will be ſufficient to give the intelligent Reader a perfect Idea of the Author's Meaning. The Study of Natural Hiſtory muſt always greatly conduce to the Honour of God; it ought, therefore, on all Hands to be properly encouraged.

We find here a great Variety of Specimens preſerved of the Neſts of different Inſects, too many to take particular Notice of; it will be ſufficient, therefore, to mention a few only to the Reader. Beſides the Waſps Neſts, there is a large Hornet's Neſt, many Neſts of Spiders, ſome Humble Bees Cells, Ants Neſts of various Kinds, and from different Parts of the World. But what is moſt worthy of Remark under this Head, is a very curious Spider's Neſt brought from the *Weſt Indies*, to which the Inſect has with great natural Skill and Ingenuity contri-

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ved a Valve, or Trap-door, to ſecure the Entrance, thereby defending its Progeny from the Attack of ſome Enemy of the Species.

Nidi Avium, Neſts of Birds. This Title affords as great a Variety as the laſt, and for the ſame Reaſons. It is impoſſible to attempt noticing all the Neſts that are here preſerved as Specimens; they are both numerous and curious; it will be ſufficient to point out to the Reader a few moſt deſerving Attention, and even of thoſe little muſt be ſaid. The hanging Neſts claim our firſt Regard, which are made by Birds, Inhabitants of both the *Indies*; they hang by a ſlender Filament to a ſmall Twig of a Tree, and are by that Means put out of the Reach of any Enemy of the quadruped or reptile Kind. Theſe Neſts are chiefly made of a Sort of Graſs without, diſpoſed in the Form of a Net, and lined with different Kinds of ſoft Subſtances within; but there are Birds in *Siberia*, that make

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hanging Neſts of a very curious Structure of Spiders Webs. The Neſts of the various Sorts of Humming Birds are pretty, particularly one, on which a very beautiful Bird is ſitting. The King Fiſher's Neſt, and that of the Tom Tit, are not unworthy of Remark, eſpecially being the Produce of our own Country. Here is a Neſt brought from *Cambodia*, and other Parts of the *Eaſt Indies*, about the Size of a Gooſe's Egg, and in Subſtance not unlike Iſinglaſs; being diſſolved in Water, it makes a fine Soup, whence it is generally called the Soup Neſt: It is made by a ſmall *Indian* Swallow of a delicate Taſte. Theſe Birds are ſeen at certain Seaſons of the Year, in vaſt Multitudes on the Sea Coaſts, where in the Clefts of the Rocks they build their Neſts of an hemiſpherical Form, making them of a ſpumous Matter which they find on the Sea Shore. There is only one Kind of Neſt more to be mentioned, and we have done with this Title; it is brought from both the

Indies,

Indies, and covered with Leaves, which the Birds are ſaid to ſew together with their Beaks, whence they have the Name of Taylor Birds.

Having given this ſhort Account of the Neſts of ſuch Kinds of Birds as are generally deemed moſt curious, and meriting Attention, we are naturally brought to the next Repoſitory.

Ova, Eggs, are very numerous: Let it be thought ſufficient, therefore, that the Reader be informed, that among others, there are Specimens of the Eggs of the Oſtrich, the Caſſoware, Owls and Eagles of various Kinds, Penguins, Cormorants, Maccaws, ſome Parrots Eggs, thoſe of the *China* Pheaſant, King Fiſher, Miſcle Birds, and ſome remarkable blue Eggs from *Virginia*. There are alſo a ſmall Egg contained within another, very curious; ſome that have irregular furrowed Surfaces, and an Egg on which is neatly and whimſically rivetted a ſmall Horſe Shoe. Beſides theſe Eggs of Birds,

Birds, are ſome Specimens of thoſe of Crocodiles, Guianas, Lizards, Turtles, and Tortoiſes.

Stellæ Marinæ, Star Fiſh. The *Stella Marina* is a ſoft Animal, compoſed of many Segments, running from a central Part reſembling the Rays of a Star, as vulgarly painted. The central Part is the Body, and has always a Mouth in its lower Side; the Rays are equidiſtant. The *Stella Arboreſcens* has the Mouth in the middle; its Body is pentangular, and from the five Angles ariſe as many Branches, which are divided and ſubdivided till the exterior ones are no thicker than Horſe-hairs, and the whole in Number amount to ſome Thouſands. One Kind of *Stella Marina* taken in *North America*, is called the Baſket Fiſh, and is of the ſame Nature as the arboreſcent Star Fiſh and the Meduſa's Head. Thoſe of the ſmaller Kind are called on our Coaſts, where they abound, Five Fingers. Some of the Specimens are very large, the

the Number of their Points or Rays being various. The reticulated Star Fiſh, called *Meduſa's Head*, is very curious; the Fiſh, when alive and in its natural Element, ſpreads abroad a great Number of Fibres, which extend to a large Compaſs, and in Figure bear no diſtant Reſemblance to a Net, being perhaps intended for the ſame Uſe, to catch its Prey.

Cruſtacea. Under this Title are depoſited a Variety of Crabs of different Kinds, Colours, and Countries; ſome Lobſters, Sea Locuſts, Prawns, Shrimps, the black Crab from *Jamaica*, and others from the *Eaſt Indies*, finely variegated in Colour; but what really moſt demands Regard, is an extraordinary large Claw of a Lobſter.

Teſtacea, A Number of large Sea Shells, as Helmets Buccina, *&c.* In the upper Part of this Repoſitory is a Log of Wood with a great Number of Barnacles ſticking to it. It was the Opinion

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of ſome of our old Naturaliſts, they were produced on a Tree that grows on the Sea Shore in the North of *Scotland*; that, after a certain Time, the Shell dropped its Contents into the Sea, and that it there became a Bird called the Barnacle, or Solan Gooſe, or, as they ſometimes named it, the Vegetable Gooſe. But the Error of their Conjectures has long been diſcovered; the Barnacle is found to be a Shell Fiſh, which might fix itſelf to thoſe Branches of Trees that chanced to be under Water; and the Solan Gooſe is now known to breed like other Water Fowls in the Northern Climates. It was once thought, that *Jamaica* produced a Tree which bore Oyſters, a Miſtake of the like Kind with that already mentioned. We ſhould be ſlow in giving Credit to whatever appears to be out of the natural Courſe of Things.

Under this Title is to be ſeen the Soldier, or Hermit Crab from *Jamaica*. The Inſtinct of this little Animal is ſurprizing;

zing; it is of the Crab Kind, but not ſatisfied with the cruſtaceous Covering Nature has given it, it ſeizes the firſt unoccupied Shell it meets with, proper for its Purpoſe, (ſome have ſaid that it will even drive the Fiſh out of it) and fixing itſelf firmly in it, drags it about as long as it lives, unleſs it ſhould find another more to its Mind.

We find in this Room two Specimens of Fern of a very particular Kind; it is produced in the Iſland of *St. Helena*, and in ſome Parts of *South America*; it grows very frequently to the Size of tolerable large Timber, and is ſometimes applied to the Uſes for which Timber is valuable.

Over the Repoſitories are diſpoſed in Order, a great Number of Sea Productions, of the Coral Kind, as Sea Fans, Sea Willows, *&c.* and ſome large Shells, as Conchs, Buccina, *&c.* together with a few of that Kind called *Pinna Marina*, which are a very large Species of Muſcle, found

found only in the Sea, chiefly in the *Mediterranean.*

The three ſmall Tables we muſt not paſs over in Silence. The firſt contains ſome Shells finely poliſhed and carved in emboſſed Work; the Figures on them are lively, and they are upon the whole remarkably elegant and beautiful, having greatly the Appearance of Mother of Pearl.

Some Cameos cut in Shells, and many more in Onyxes, Sardonyxes, Cryſtals, Hyacinths, and other precious Stones.

Some Intaglios in Jaſpers, *&c.*

Several Rings ſet with Cameos, others with Intaglios of the Stones above mentioned; and many antique Rings and Seals, and ſome Beads made of carved Fruit Stones.

In the ſecond of the ſmall Tables are preſerved ſeveral very curious Models, finely executed by *Simons*, the famous Engraver.

A ſmall Half-length of Sir *Thomas Greſham*,, neatly carved in Wood in Relievo.

Many Impreſſions taken in Glaſs Paſte from antique Seals.

A Number of Impreſſions taken in Sulphur, from the Seals, Gems, and carved Stones in the King of *France*'s Cabinet. They are a very curious Collection, the Subjects chiefly hiſtorical.

The third ſmall Table is entirely filled with the Remainder of the Impreſſions from the King of *France*'s Cabinet.

The Reader muſt now be conducted to the firſt of the large Tables, which contains a great Number of Inſects of various Kinds; thoſe that firſt occur, are ſuch as have moveable cruſtaceous Shields to guard their Wings.

Scarabæi, Beetles. Theſe are a large Family of Inſects, and are divided, by Authors who have treated on the Subject, into ſeveral Claſſes; ſome of them have luminated Antennæ, others ſharp pointed;

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in many Kinds, the outer Caſes or Shields for the Wings are perfect; in others, only covering a part of the Body. In a few, the Antennæ are inſerted in a Kind of Proboſcis, or Trunk, and ſome have pointed Inſtruments at their Head. The ſeveral Kinds are diſpoſed under the Titles that follow. Under this general Title are found the Elephant Beetle, the Rhinoceros Beetle, from the *Eaſt* and *Weſt Indies*, the *Cervus Volans*, or Stag Beetle, found in *Eſſex*, and ſome other Counties. It is a very curious Inſect, of a blackiſh Colour; the Horns are near an inch and a half in length when full grown, and ſomewhat reſemble thoſe of a Stag; they can cloſe the Points, and uſe them as a Crab does its Claws: near the Eyes are two Pair of Antennæ, the Males are ſmaller than the Females. The Unicorn Beetle, and many others, are preſerved as curious Specimens.

Dermeſtes, Wood Beetles, are a Kind of Scarabæus, which are particularly di-

ſtinguiſhed by having clavated Antennæ. Among the Specimens are the ſpotted winged black Dermeſtis, the red legged black, and the hairy Dermeſtis.

Caſſidæ, Tortoiſe Beetles. A ſmall Species of the Scarabæus, with the Head leſs prominent and viſible than in either of the former. The Tortoiſe Caſſida, the ſeveral Kinds of black Caſſidæ with more or leſs Striæ on the outward Wings, and the green Caſſida found in Gardens, are to be looked for under this Title.

Coccinellæ, Specimens of Lady Birds, or Lady Cows, as they are often called, variegated, and properly diſtinguiſhed. This Inſect is named *Hemiſphæria* by Dr. *Hill*.

Chryſomelæ, a ſmall Beetle with beaded Antennæ, thickeſt towards the Extremity; the Body is of an oval Form, the Thorax oblong and rounded. Some of them are of a blackiſh Colour, variouſly ſpotted or ſtriated, others green, yellowiſh, or entirely brown.

Curculiones,

Curculiones, A Kind of Beetle, with Antennæ projecting from the End of a Trunk, or Proboſcis. The common brown, the ſhining brown, the purple and black Curculiones, and the Weevil, which deſtroys ſo much Corn in Granaries, are of this Kind.

Cerambices, Capricorn Beetles, are a Beetle with very long ſlender-jointed Antennæ generally hanging over the Back; they have long and ſlender Bodies, and are fond of Places in the Neighbourhood of Rivers. The great ſweet ſmelling Capricorn or Muſk Beetle, by ſome Authors more particularly called Cerambyx, is a moſt beautiful Inſect; the others are of various Colours, as grey, black, brown, gold-coloured, and ſome of a very beautiful Violet Colour. The Capricorn Beetle is a curious Specimen.

Lepturæ, have four Wings, with Antennæ oblong, ſlender, and ſetaceous; the exterior Wings are truncated at the Extremity, and the Thorax is of a ſub-

cylindric Figure; they are generally eſteemed a Kind of Beetle, and are black, Copper-coloured, red, &c.

Ditiſci, Water Beetles, have ſetaceous Antennæ, and their Feet formed for ſwimming. The common Water Beetle, the large black Water Beetle, the brown Water Beetle with prominent Eyes, the ſmall brown Water Beetle, and others, are comprehended under this Title.

Bupreſtes, are of the Nature of Cantharides, or *Spaniſh* Flies, are Inhabitants of the Water chiefly, have the Head in part concealed, a very ſtinking Smell, and bite ſeverely. They are ſaid to do great Injury to ſuch Cattle as chance in feeding to eat them. Of theſe the moſt curious is the light green Bupreſtis with yellowiſh green ſtriated Wings: the large black Bupreſtis, or Tree Beetle, and the ſmall black Bupreſtis, are of this Kind.

Elatri, have a Body of an oblong flatted Figure, the Head nicely joined to the Shoulders, and Legs very ſhort and ſlender.

der. The Elater, if laid on its Back, has a Power of ſkipping to a conſiderable Diſtance. Some of them are black, others of a changeable Braſs Colour, &c.

Staphilini, are a large and long black Beetle, with ſlender beaded Antennæ, the exterior Wings dimidiated and ſhort, a ſharp Fork at its Tail, and two Veſicles juſt above it, the Body almoſt naked, and is nimble, and very voracious. The brown Staphilinus with blue Wings is a curious Inſect; a Number of them are black, but diſtinguiſhed one from the other, either by the Legs, or by the Colour of the interior Wings.

Blattæ, Mill Beetles, have long ſlender Antennæ in continual Motion, and uſually two Spines at the Tail: The Males have Wings, and are ſmaller than the Females. The yellow Blatta, a Native of the Northern Countries, where it feeds on the dried Fiſh, and a very large Kind from *Jamaica*, are of this Species.

Grylli, Crickets, reſemble a Locuſt. The Antennæ of the Cricket has no Articulations. In this Claſs *Linnæus* ranks the Cicadæ and Mantes. The common Houſe Cricket, the Field Cricket, and the great brown Cricket, are all that need be mentioned, if we except the Mole Cricket, found in ſome Parts of *England*, which is a remarkable Inſect.

Locuſtæ, Locuſts, are remarkable for their hinder Legs, which are long, and made for leaping. They have articulated Antennæ, very flexile, the outer Wings brown, the inner membranaceous, tranſparent, and reticulated. The large common Locuſt, the Graſhopper, and the *Spaniſh* Locuſt, are of this Species.

Mantes are of the ſame Kind. Among theſe we muſt reckon the common preying Locuſt, the large brown Mantis, the flat ſhaped Mantis, and the long winged Mantis. Under this Title are, beſides, ſome very curious Specimens of what are called in the *Indies* Walking Leaves, or Moving

Moving Sticks, from the Reſemblance their Wings have to the Leaves of Trees, and their Bodies to a Piece of Stick; theſe are a very wonderful Kind of Inſect, and worthy particular Remark.

Cicadæ, Balm Crickets, or Harveſt Flies. They have four membranaceous, and no outer Wings, have large Heads, and in their whole Form are not unlike that Kind of Fly which is vulgarly called a Drone, but very much larger, the ſmaller Kinds being larger than the Hornet. They make a Noiſe like a Cricket, and are very numerous in the Southern Parts of *France* and *Italy*, but we have them not in *England*. The Specimens are of various Colours and Sizes.

Cimices, have a ſmall Head, Shoulders of an angular Make, Wings partly cruſtaceous, partly membranaceous; they have a long Proboſcis, which is bent under the Belly, and always lies ſtrait, not in a ſpiral Form: They are of ſeveral diſtin-

guiſhed Kinds, and of different Colours, as green, grey, black, red, &c.

Notonectæ, Boat Flies, a Water Inſect. Some Kinds have the Antennæ ſhorter than the Thorax, others have none; the hinder Legs are formed for ſwimming, and ſome Kinds ſwim on their Backs. It is only neceſſary to mention here the common Boat Fly, the ſmall Boat Fly, the large black Notonecta, a Native of the *Eaſt Indies*, and a brown Notonecta.

Nepæ, Water Scorpions, have four Wings, each of the fore Feet armed with a Forceps, in Shape like a Crab's Claw. It is a thin and light Inſect, yet a ſlow Mover; its Head is ſmall, and has a ſmall Proboſcis; the Body on the Back is of a red Lead Colour, but a duſky brown on the Belly, and is covered with a kind of Scales; the Tail is long and ſtraight, compoſed of two tender Fibres, which it ſeldom ſeperates: it lives among the Weeds in clear ſtanding Waters.

Cocci,

Cocci, Cochineal, is a ſmall Fly that feeds and breeds on the Leaf of the *Indian* Fig. This Inſect, when dried and ſent to *Europe*, is of great Uſe in dying. *Linnæus* mentions many other Kinds feeding on various Trees.

We muſt now in Courſe proceed to the other great Table, where the Inſects are continued.

Phryganeæ, are a Kind of ſmall Fly, not unlike the Gnat, but they have four reticulated Wings, which are incumbent, and have four Tentacula, or Feelers, two on each Side. The black Kinds are various, and ſome are of other Colours. Under this Title is the Ephemeron, whoſe whole Extent of Life is but a few Hours.

Libellulæ, Dragon Flies, or Adder Flies, are a beautiful Inſect, with a long various Coloured Body, and large reticulated Wings; many of them in Colour incline to green or yellow, and ſome black, or greyiſh.

Papiliones, Butterflies, have either buttoned Antennæ, clavated Antennæ, or gradually diminiſhing, and terminated by an oval Head. They are divided into ſeven Claſſes, each of which contain a great Variety of Species. A very great Number of Specimens from different Parts of the World, curious and beautiful, are here preſerved; ſome were caught at home. The moſt remarkable among them are, a fine green Fly, the Mother of Pearl, the Owl and the Peacock from the *Eaſt Indies*, and a remarkable fine purple Fly from the *Weſt Indies*. The Ladies may amuſe themſelves with looking at the great Variety here exhibited.

Phalenæ, Moths, have either priſmatic Antennæ of an equal Thickneſs almoſt their whole Length, conic Antennæ, gradually diminiſhing to a Point, or bearded Antennæ; and ſome of them have Trunks, others none. They are a Kind of nocturnal Butterfly, flying only in the Night,

Night, and are more numerous than thoſe properly called Butterflies, and are, like them, divided into ſeven Claſſes. Some of them fill the Remainder of this Table, the reſt being in the Inſect Table in the next Room. Many of the Specimens are very large, particularly thoſe from *South America*.

Collectio Sloaniana.

We now enter upon another Room, where, for the Sake of Regularity, I ſhall proceed to finiſh my Remarks on the Inſects contained in the great Table.

Phalenæ. Under this Title are the Remainder of the Moths.

Tenthredines. This Kind of Inſect is by the *French* named *Mouche a Scie*, from its having a ſerrated Weapon, or Sting. In Shape it is like a Bee, but in Colour generally reſembles a Waſp. It is a very gregarious Animal, but makes no Honey, tho' whole Swarms live together: it loves to be among Meat, as in Kitchens, and

Lar-

Larders, &c. They differ much in Size, ſome Specimens being very ſmall.

Ichneumones. This Fly has two reticulated Wings, ſlender Antennæ, no Proboſcis or Trunk, a long ſlender Body, and two or three Filaments affixed to its Tail; Their Colour is various, as black, yellow, &c. and ſome Specimens are large.

Veſpæ, Waſps. This Inſect has four Wings and ſix Feet, his Body is yellow, with black triangular Spots. The common Waſp breeds in the Ground. We may here mention the Ichneumon Waſp, which is a ſmall Kind, with a very ſlender Body. They live in Holes of Mud Walls. The Hornet reſembles the Waſp, but is twice as large, and the Head of a longer and ſlenderer Shape, and the Eyes formed ſomewhat like a Half-moon. Here are various Specimens of the Waſp of different Colours and Sizes.

Apes, Bees. The Specimens are numerous of this uſeful Inſect; ſome are very

ſmall,

ſmall, others hairy, and a few black. Here we muſt mention the Humble Bees, the Bodies of which are for the moſt part black, differing chiefly one from the other in the Colour of their Tails.

Formicæ, Ants. Nothing need be ſaid of theſe, but that the Females and Mules have hidden Stings, the Males and Females Wings, the Mules none. They are of many Kinds, as the common Ants with Wings, the red Ant, the great *American* red and black Ants, the little black Ant, and the great Wood Ant.

Tabani, Horſe Flies, have but two Wings, and are of various Colours, as black, brown, yellow, *&c.*

Œſtri, Gad Flies, or Breeze Flies. Theſe have green Heads, and yellowiſh Bodies, large Eyes, and a long Trunk; they fly ſwiftly, and without Noiſe; they are met with in the Neighbourhood of Waters. The large black and yellow Gad Fly, and the ſmall Breeze Fly are of this Kind.

Muſcæ, Flies. Here are to be found

a great many Specimens of Flies, common enough; ſeveral white winged Flies, ſome hairy, and others variegated with black and yellow, or blue and green, and many entirely black or yellow muſt here be mentioned.

Culices, Gnats, a troubleſome Inſect, too well known from its ſevere ſtinging. Some of the Specimens here ſhewn reſemble the Moſketo Fly of *Jamaica*, and the *Weſt Indies*.

Araneæ, (Inſects without Wings) All Spiders have a Weapon iſſuing out of their Mouth, are covered with a Sort of cruſtaceous Coat, but it is tender and brittle, have two Antennæ, compoſed of a Number of Joints, the Head fixed to the Shoulders, and have eight legs; in the reſt they differ. Here are many Specimens, and among the reſt, the *Italian* and *Weſt Indian* Tarantula.

Oniſci, Wood Lice, or Millepedes. This Inſect is ſometimes called Aſellus; they are divided into ſeven Species, ſome rare; one

one Kind from *Cornwall* has long Antennæ, is near an Inch in Length, and diſtinguiſhed from the other Kinds by the Shape of its Tail, which is a flat Lamina with three Points.

Scorpiones, Scorpions of different Sorts from various Parts of the World, differing in Size.

Iuli, Gally-worms, are a Kind of Inſect with a long Body, compoſed of a great Number of Rings, with many ſmall Feet and beaded Antennæ; they are generally of a ferrugenous duſky or blackiſh Colour, living for the moſt part under Ground, and when touched will roll themſelves in a Ball.

Scolopendræ, ſeveral Specimens of the Centipes from *America* and elſewhere; they have ſlender and long Bodies, very ſmooth, and of a yellowiſh or reddiſh Colour, furniſhed with a great Number of Legs, two long Antennæ, and a bifid Tail. The Bite of this Inſect is ſaid to

be

be almoſt as dangerous as that of the Scorpion.

Aureliæ, Aurelias, or Chryſaliſes of ſeveral Species of Inſects.

Vermes, a miſcellaneous Collection of Worms.

Nidi Inſectorum, ſome Neſts of Inſects, as Spiders, Bettles, Locuſts, *&c.*

Nidi Serici, Coccoons of Silkworms. Under this Title is a Ribbon made of Spiders Web, and ſome Silk of the ſame.

Teſtudines, Tortoiſes and Turtles of the ſmaller Sizes, finely variegated, and ſulcated in their Shells.

Avium Partes, Parts of Birds; they conſiſt of Heads, Beaks, Talons, Legs, Quills, *&c.* Particularly to be noticed are ſome Heads of the Rhinoceros Bird: This Bird is a Species of *Indian* Raven, is very ugly, and has a rank Smell; it is larger than our Raven, its Neck and Head thick, has large Eyes, and its Beak is bent like a Bow, having a large and thick Horn like protuberance on its upper Part; the

Beak

Beak is of a yellowiſh White below; above towards the Head of a fine gay Red; the upper Chap is ſerrated. The Beak of a Toucan, or Brazil Pye: This Bird is of a middle Size, between the common Magpie and the Thruſh; it has a Beak thicker and longer than its whole Body, hooked at the End, and of a very thin light Subſtance, yet bony, with a ſort of toothed Edge; its Head is large in Proportion to the Body, black on the Crown, the reſt of it with the Neck and Back ſlightly variegated with White; the Breaſt is orange coloured, Belly and Thighs bright Red, Tail black, but red at the End. The Beak of a Spoonbill, or Platea, a long necked Bird, approaching to the Nature of the Stork or Heron; its Beak is different from all other Birds, being broadeſt at the Extremity, and terminating in a large rounded flat Proceſs; the Bird is all over white, except the Wings, which have ſome Black; it builds in high Trees in *Holland:* And ſome Quills of the Condor

are

are preſerved here; a Bird of ſuch a prodigious Size and Strength, as to be able to carry a Sheep through the Air in its Talons. So many wonderful Things have been ſaid of the Condor, that it was long doubted whether there was ſuch a Bird in Nature: It is not known in *Europe*, nor is it frequent in any Part of the World, but has been ſeen in *Peru* and *Chili*, in *South America*.

Piſcium Partes, Parts of Fiſh, conſiſt of Jaws, Palates, Teeth, Back-bones, Fins, *&c.* of various Kinds of Fiſh.

On the Shelves round this Room are a great Number and Variety of Articles, preſerved in Spirits, from the animal and vegetable Kingdoms: They are, like the reſt of this noble Collection, curious, and worthy of very particular Obſervation; yet, it is neceſſary my Remarks on them ſhould be but ſhort. The firſt Title that preſents itſelf to our View, is

Quadrupedia, Quadrupeds. Among theſe I ſhall only mention a few Specimens;

mens; as, the *Armadillo*, called by the Natives *Tatu*, a little Animal covered over with hard Scales, like a Sort of Armour; in its Head and Snout it reſembles a Pig, has the Feet of a Hedgehog, and is a great Deſtroyer of Sugar Canes in the *Brazils*. The *Sloth*, called *Haii* by the Natives of *Brazil*; of this Animal many Stories are told, as that it is a whole Day walking a few Yards; that it will grow fat when it has got into a Tree, but having conſumed all the Food the Tree afforded, it will be nearly ſtarved before it can get to another; if it is hurt, it makes a Noiſe like the crying of a Child, and even ſheds Tears; his fore Legs are double his hinder in length: It is a very inoffenſive and harmleſs, but not a very handſome Animal. The *Yerbua*, a Kind of *beautiful Field Mouſe*, with a very long Tail and hinder Legs, on which it generally walks erect. Several Kinds of *Monkeys*. The *flying Squirel*, frequent in *Virginia*, which has a Membrane reaching from the fore to the

the hinder Legs, of the Nature of a Bat's Wing, and ſerving for the Uſe of flying from Tree to Tree, which it will do, though they are at a conſiderable Diſtance. Some *Bats* of various Kinds. A *Hedge-hog*; and the *Opoſſum*, an Animal, which, in Caſe of Danger, protects its Young in a Cavity under its Belly; it is about the Size of a large Cat, Head like a Fox, ſharp Noſe, ſmall Teeth, two long before like a Hare, ſmall Eyes, long ſmooth erect Ears, black Whiſkers; its Tail is round, about a Foot long; it frequently hangs to Branches of Trees by it; its hinder Feet longer than the fore ones; five Toes, reſemble a Monkeys; on the Back it is blackiſh, mixed with brown and grey, and yellowiſh on the Belly.

Under this Title are a great Number of *Fœtus's* of different Animals, and ſome *unnatural Productions*, among which is the *Cyclops Pig*, having only one Eye, and that in the Middle of the Forehead.

Aves,

Aves, Birds. We find here a great Number and Variety of *Engliſh* and foreign Birds, brought from all Countries, and preſerved in Spirits. Among theſe I ſhall firſt mention the *King Fiſher*, a very beautiful Bird, approaching in many Things to the Woodpecker, but that it has not two Toes behind; the Legs of this Bird are very ſhort, black before and red behind; its general Colours are green and blue, and are very bright and beautiful. The *Wheat Ear*, which is ſomewhat larger than the common Sparrow; its Head and Back is of a greyiſh Colour mixt with red; the Belly is whitiſh with a glow of red; the Throat redder than the Belly; its Beak is black, ſlender, and ſtraight; they are by ſome called the *Engliſh* Ortolan, ſo much are they eſteemed at Table. The *Croſsbill* is about the Size and Shape of a Greenfinch; its Beak is hard, thick, ſtrong, and black; both Parts of it are crooked, ſo that the Points croſs; its Head and Back are variegated with black

and

and green; the Rump and Breaſt are green, the Throat grey, the Belly white, the Wings and Tail black and green; it feeds on Seeds and Kernels of Fruit. There are ſeveral Specimens of *Humming Birds*, it makes a Noiſe in flying like the Humming of a Bee, and with its little Beak, which exceeds not the Size of a Needle, ſucks the Juice out of Flowers as it flies; it is the ſmalleſt of all Birds, but of the moſt beautiful and lively Colours; there are ſeveral Kinds of them of various Sizes, ſome ſo ſmall as to weigh no more than the tenth Part of an Ounce; the *Indians* make very curious Pictures of its Feathers; the Leg and Foot together meaſure but half an Inch, its whole Trunk not an Inch. We muſt next mention ſome Birds of the Titmouſe Kind, as the *Blackcap*, the *Blue Titmouſe* or *Nun*, and the *Blue American Titmouſe*, called in *Braſil Guizacenoia*; in this laſt the Head, Throat, Breaſt, Belly, and the lower Part of the Beak are of a fine blue, the Neck and

Tail

Tail black, the Legs brown, and the Wings black, variegated with blue. Among the Specimens here preſerved, the Reader will find a great Number of others no leſs curious, and ſome unnatural Productions, as a Goſling with three Legs, *&c. &c.*

REPTILIA. AMPHIBIA. SERPENTIA.

In theſe three Repoſitories are many amphibious Animals in Spirits. Among them are *Frogs*, *Toads*, particularly the *Carolina* and *Bull Frog*, and the *Surinam Toad*, whoſe Young are produced out of its Back; ſome *young Crocodiles*, *Allegators*, *Guanas*, *Cameleons*, *Salamanders*, the *flying Lizard*, and other Kinds of *Lizards*.

The Serpents conſiſt of *Snakes*, *Slow-worms*, *Vipers*, *Adders*, *Rattle-ſnakes*, *Aſps*, *Hooded-ſnakes*, *Coach-whip-ſnakes*, ſo called from their extreme Length and Slenderneſs, and ſome *Amphiſbænæ*, a Kind of Serpent, whoſe Head can ſcarcely be diſtinguiſhed from the Tail, they moving

both Ways, forward and retrograde; they are brought from *South America*, and here preſerved in Spirits.

Piſces, Fiſh of many Kinds in Spirits, and among others the *Hippocampus*, or *Sea Horſe*; the *flying Fiſh*; the *Remora*, formerly thought able to ſtop a Ship under Sail; *Pearl Oyſters*, the *John Doree*, the *Sea Polipus*, *Barnacles*, and many others, too numerous to take notice of.

Inſecta, Inſects. Many Kinds of *Caterpillars*, *Beetles*, *Locuſts*, *Centipes*, *Scorpions*, *Spiders*, and *Worms from human Bodies*.

Vegetabilia, Vegetables. Theſe conſiſt chiefly of *foreign Fruits* preſerved in Spirits, and ſome of our own Produce, but of an uncommon Form. There are alſo under this Title a Collection of *Oils*, *Balſams*, and other *chemical Preparations*, extracted *from Vegetables*, chiefly the Growth of the *Eaſt Indies*.

In different Parts of this Room on the Wainſcot over the Repoſitories, *&c.* are ſome *dried Animals*, and *ſtuffed Skins* of others,

others, particularly ſome *large Bats*, *Turtles* and *Tortoiſes*, *Sharks Jaws*, more *Heads* and *Beaks* of *Birds*, a very *large ſtuffed Snake's Skin* from *Surinam* in the *Weſt Indies*, the *Skin of a ſcaly Lizard*, ſome *Lizards*, *Guanas*, and the *Skin of an Ant Bear*; a *Flamingo*, a *young wild Boar*, a *Porcupine*, *Armadillos*, an *Oron Outon*, or *wild Man of the Mountains*; the *Head of a Sea Horſe*, *Jaws of Fiſh*, and ſome *Crocodiles*.

Here are a great Variety of *Horns* of different *Animals*, particularly the foſſil *Horns of Mouſe Deer*, found in the Bogs of *Ireland*, very large; *Horns of Elks*, the *Rhinoceros*, *Rein Deer*, *Antelope*, and *Chamoiſe*. Sir *Hans Sloane's famous horned Owl ſtuffed*. Some *Birds ſtuffed*, placed in Glaſs Frames; particularly a *Bird of Paradiſe*, ſome *Humming Birds*, *Manakeens*, ſome of the *Titmouſe* Kind, a *Virginia Nightingale*, and a *Tropic* Bird: And there ſome *Portraits* of ſeveral Kind of *Birds* taken from the Life.

In a large Cabinet are depoſited a great many dried Fiſh, brought from various Parts of the World; among other Specimens are a *ſmall Saw Fiſh*, the *Head* of a *Sword Fiſh*, ſome *flying Fiſh*, a *Dolphin*, a *Sturgeon*, a *young Shark*, a *Porcupine Fiſh*, a *Torpedo*, or *Cramp Fiſh*, &c.

Over this Cabinet is a *ſtuffed Emeu*, or *Caſſowary*, a *Balearic Crane*, or *Crown Bird*, an *Eagle*, and a *Vultur*.

There remains nothing more to be mentioned in this Room, but the *Skeleton* of a very *young Whale*, ſome *Horns* of the *Unicorn Fiſh*, the Head and Paws of the *Walroſs*, uſually called the *Sea Lion*, and the *Snouts* of the *Saw* and *Sword Fiſh*.

We now enter upon the laſt Room of this Department, which is filled with *Productions* of *Art*, diſpoſed in ſeveral Cabinets; the Articles are indeed very numerous, and would require a Volume to give a Deſcription of them alone; my Remarks on them will be but few.

In

In the firſt Cabinet is a Variety of little *Articles* manufactured in *Glaſs*, of different Shapes, coloured, painted, and ſpun Glaſs; ſome *Cups*, *Diſhes*, and other Matters, made of *Papier Maché*, reſembling China Ware; and other enameled and curiouſly manufactured *Bagatelles*.

In the next we muſt remark ſome Articles in great Eſteem among many *Roman Catholics*, as *Relics*, *Beads*, &c. and ſome *Models* of *ſacred Buildings*.

We now come to the *Utenſils* and *Ornaments* of the *Indian* Inhabitants of the great Continent of *North America*, as *Feather Crowns*, *Necklaces*, *Knives*, and ſome curious *Contrivances* for *Combs*, *Bruſhes*, &c. an *Indian Scalp*, and ſome *Wampum*. Theſe are a Sort of Shells, uſed as Money among the *Indians*; a String of Wampum is made of Shells, formed into ſmall Cylinders of a quarter of an Inch long, and ſomewhat leſs over, ſtrung in great Numbers on long Strings; it is white and black, the meaneſt is in ſingle

Strings, of which the white goes at five Shillings a Fathom, the black ten, or by Number, the white ſix a Penny, the black three. The next in Value is that which is wove into Bracelets, about three quarters of a Yard long, black and white in Stripes, ſix Pieces in a Row, the Warp is Leather Thongs, the Woof Thread. The moſt valuable of all is that wove into Girdles, theſe conſiſt of many Rows black and white, woven into Squares and other Figures; theſe are uſed in their great Payments, they make their nobleſt Preſents of them, or lay them up as Treaſure. Here is alſo ſome *Caſſada Bread*, or *Caſſavi*, this is made of the Root of a Plant called Yucca, Manioc, or Manihot; the Juice of the Root is poiſonous, but the dry Powder of it nouriſhing and wholeſome. The *Indians* in making it raſp the Roots, preſs out the Juice in Bags, and dry the remaining Matter over the Fire; they then make it into Cakes, which are either dried in the Sun or otherways; when

theſe

these Cakes are thick they are called Cassavi, or Cassada, and serve the poorer Sort; the thinner are eaten by the Rich, and called Seiam.

In another Cabinet are *European* Productions of Art, as some *small Cabinets*, *Figures in Bronze*, and several *Ivory* anatomical Representations of *Skulls*, *Eyes*, *Ears*, &c. and some fine Work of *Turnery* and *Carving*.

We next see some *Japan* Idols very small, many cut out of Almonds, and even Grains of Rice; *East India* Money; some *Chinese Figures* of their *Gods*, *Men*, and *Beasts*, made after their Fancy, and dressed in their Fashions, Part of them in Bronze, the rest chiefly in *Rice Paste*, called *Congee*.

The *Model* of a *Palanquin*, a Kind of Chair of State in which the Grandees of the *East* are carried on Mens Shoulders; *Cards*, *Dice*, and other *Bagatelles*; *Forks*, *Chopsticks*, *Backscratchers*, *Steelyards*, *Weights*, and *Beads* for casting up their Accompts, called *Schwampam*.

Some *China Paper*, *Womens Shoes*, *Pendants* made of *Beetles*, *Inks* of all Colours, *Rulers*, ſmall *japaned Veſſels*, &c.

In the laſt of the Cabinets that I ſhall mention particularly, are various Specimens of *curious earthen Ware*, ſome *Porcellain Cups* before they are burnt, in ſome Meaſure ſhewing the Nature of the Earth they are made of; ſome other *Cups*, which they ſay the *Chineſe* made of *Engliſh* Gravel which happened to be carried over in one of our Ships; and ſeveral Sorts of plain, painted, and *gilt China Ware* of various Shapes.

Under Glaſs Bells are ſome very *curious* Pieces of *Work in Ivory*, particularly one made by the late Queen of *Denmark*. The Flower Pots in Ivory are very fine.

Some Models of *Chineſe Grottos*; a *Model* of Captain *Gilbert*, made in *China* of the fine earth. The *Root* of the *Tea Plant* muſt be noticed in this Place; this Plant grows in the ſeveral Provinces of

of *China*, *Japan*, and *Siam*, and affects a ſtony Soil in Vallies at the Feet of Mountains; the Root reſembles that of the Peach Tree, the Leaves are green, longiſh at the Point, narrow, better than an Inch long, and jagged all round; the Flower like that of the wild Roſe; the Tree is of various Sizes, ſometimes very large, at others a mere Shrub of the ſmalleſt Kind.

Here are alſo ſome *Pieces* of *Sculpture*, as King *William*, and King *George* the Firſt, cut in Walnut Shells and in Ivory; the Head of *Baker*, who wrote the Chronicle; alſo an Impreſſion of *Oliver Cromwell*'s Seal; *Paintings at large*, in *Miniature* and *Enamel*; as a *Man* that had an *Excreſcence*, or *Wen*, in Form of a Head growing out of his left Breaſt.

A *Cyclops Pig*.

A *Woman* who had *two horny Subſtances* grew out of the back Part of her *Head*; one of the Horns is kept in ſome of the

Cabinets in this Room. A Picture of the ſame Woman and another Horn are ſhewn at *Oxford*.

Thomas Briton, the muſical *Small-coal-man*. A *black Whale*, and a *Buffalo*.

Several Drawings in Miniature, compoſed of very ſmall writing, particularly two Heads, one of Queen *Ann*, the other of Prince *George* of *Denmark*, ſaid to contain a Number of Speeches in Parliament, and Proclamations; and alſo the Head of the Duke of *Glouceſter* done in the ſame Manner.

Inſects and *Reptiles*.

A *Plantation* of *Cochineal*, with the People gathering and drying it.

Several *Flowers* and *Plants*.

We have now done with our Remarks on this ſecond Department. In our Way to the next, we are led down the back Stairs, where we muſt take notice of *two Canoes*, the one brought from *America*, the other from *Greenland*, differing both in

in Form and Materials : the firſt is very ingeniouſly covered with the Bark of a Kind of Birch Tree, which is fixed to ſmall Ribs on the inſide; the whole Boat is remarkably light, inſomuch that two Men may eaſily carry it many Miles from one Lake or River to another, which is very neceſſary in *America*, on Account of the great Falls. The other Canoe is entirely covered with Seals Skins, at a Diſtance bearing ſome Reſemblance to Parchment ; the upper Part of it is as it were decked with the ſame Materials, there being only a ſmall Hole left open in the middle for the Man to ſit in and manage his Paddle.

On the Wainſcot going down theſe Stairs, is a large Piece of Painting, repreſenting ſeveral Kinds of dead Game.

SECTION III.

THE laſt Department we are to mention in this our Account is that of printed Books; it contains many Collections, and a great Number of ſcarce Works, well worth the Attention of the learned World.

Croſſing the Hall, in the Way from the back Stairs, the firſt Room we enter is appropriated for modern Works of the Preſs; Part of it is filled with Books ſent in by the Stationers Company, and other Preſents given to the Muſeum in the Reign of his late Majeſty; the remaining Part of the Preſſes are prepared for the Reception of ſuch as may be added in the Reign of his preſent Majeſty.

Major EDWARDS's *Library.*

This is a good Collection of *Engliſh*, *French*, and *Italian* Books, but chiefly the laſt,

laſt, which Major *Edwards* gave by his Will to the Public, with a Generoſity worthy of Imitation. It is joined to the *Cotton* Library, and depoſited in this Room, as a laſting Monument of his Genius and public Spirit.

BIBLIOTHECA SLOANIANA. I.

In this Room are preſerved Part of Sir *Hans Sloane*'s Library, conſiſting of Books of Phyſic, Pharmacy, Anatomy, Surgery, Chemiſtry, *&c.*

BIBLIOTHECA SLOANIANA. II.

Another Part of Sir *Hans Sloane*'s Library, Natural Hiſtory, Herbaria, Hortus Siccus. Here are many Drawings, perhaps the fineſt that are to be ſeen in the World. The Reader muſt particularly admire a Book containing ſome Drawings of Monſ. *Robert*, Painter to *Louis* the Fourteenth, King of *France*. They conſiſt of a great Number of Vegetables, curious Animals, Shells, and other natural

natural Productions, very elegantly drawn and coloured from Nature. Sir *Hans Sloane* paid this Artist five Guineas for doing each Leaf. We must also notice a great many Drawings, elegantly coloured from Nature by *Madame Marian*. They consist of a great Variety of Plants, with the Insects that feed on them, and some other Things. It is to be remarked, that this Lady made a Voyage to *Surinam*, and resided there some Years, to perfect herself in the Knowledge of Natural History, and to make Drawings of the Plants, Fruits, and Insects, which those warmer Climates produce. In this Room are also some printed Books in the *Chinese* Language.

BIBLIOTHECA SLOANIANA. III.

Here are many Books on philological Subjects, Grammars, Lexicons, Critics Treatises on Rhetoric, Geography, some Travels, Journals, and Miscellanies.

BIBLI-

BIBLIOTHECA SLOANIANA. IV.

In this Part of Sir *Hans Sloane*'s Collection are Hiſtories of all Nations, ancient and modern; ſome Treatiſes on Chronology, Prints, Globes, and large Maps of different Countries.

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Books collected in the Reigns of *Henry* VII. *Henry* VIII. *Edward* VI. Queen *Mary*, and Queen *Elizabeth*. Here are alſo ſeveral other Collections, as the Libraries of Archbiſhop *Cranmer*, *More*, *Arundel*, and *Lumley*. Many of the Books are very valuable: among others are the firſt printed Copies of the Bible, and other ſacred and hiſtorical Writings; ſome Books on the Subject of Religion, *&c.* publiſhed before, and in the Infancy of the Reformation, when Printing was firſt invented, and ſome other Works, treating of the Sciences, Hiſtory, *&c.* In this Place are preſerved the firſt Books printed in *England* and *France*; ſome are upon Vellum, others on Paper; they bear a great Reſemblance to the fineſt Manuſcripts, having, like them the Titles and initial Letters curiouſly illuminated.

Bibliotheca Regia II.

In this laſt Room of the Library is depoſited the remaining Part of the Books given

given by his late Majeſty. They were collected in the Reigns of *James* the firſt, *Charles* the firſt, and *Charles* the ſecond.

It is proper to remark, that if any ingenious Perſon has either a mind to improve himſelf in the ſeveral Sciences or Languages by reading, or is prompted by Curioſity to peruſe ſome of the valuable Books of this Department, by applying to the Truſtees, he may have an Order to attend the reading Room for a Time, where there is a particular Officer appointed to provide ſuch Books as may be wanted. This is an Advantage not known to many, who would otherwiſe be glad of ſuch an Opportunity of conſulting ſome ſcarce Books.

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the magnetical Powers in philoſophical Uſes.

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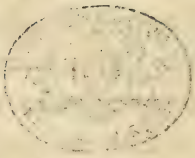

INDEX.

INDEX.

A.

	Page
ABRACADABRA	62
Abraxas	61
Acacia	154
Achates	66, 105
Admiral Shell	140
Æſculapius	46
Ætites	108
Adder Flies	179
Ailurus	21, 42
Alabaſter	71
Alabaſtra	70
Alcoran, fine copies of	28
Allegators	193
Ambers	78, 99, 105
American Idols	54
American Houſhold Utenſils	65
Amethyſt	92
Amianthus	76
Ammonitæ	102, 113

Amphibia ——— Page 193
Amphiſbænæ ——— ibid.
Amphoras —— —— 44
——— Hetruſcan —— ibid.
Amulets —— —— 41
Anacardium Occidentale 152
——— Orientale 153
Anomiæ conchæ —— 102, 115
Antimony ——— 81
Ant Bear, Skin of —— 195
Antiquitates Ægyptiacæ —— 38
——— Hetruſcæ 43
——— Romanæ 46
——— Variæ 52
Ants —— —— 183
Anubis —— —— 42
Apes —— —— 182
Apis ——— ——— 40
Apocynum ——— 150
Appian Road, Stone from 4
Apyri —— —— 74, 104
Aqua marina ——— 89
Aquileius —— —— 110
Arabian Letter Shell —— 140
Arabian Shell ——— 144
Araneæ —— —— 184

	Page
Argus Shell	140
Armadillo	189, 195
Articles from Herculaneum	63
Aſbeſtos	76, 134
Aſphaltus	79
Aſteriæ	103, 119
Aſtroites	119
Aves	191
Avium Partes	186
Aureliæ	ibid.
Aures marinæ	133

B.

Bacchanalia	8
Balearic Crane	196
Balm Crickets	177
Bark Lace	155
Bark Papyrus	13
Barnacles	194
Baromez	149
Baſaltes	3
Baſanos	ibid.
Baſket Fiſh	165
—— Shell	145
Baſkets made of Bark	56

Page
Baſtinadoes — 57
Bats, large — 194
Battiſte — 9
Bead Shells — 134
Bees — 182
Beetles — 170, 194
Beetle Porcellain — 140
Belemnites — 102, 118
Belted Snail — 133
Benzoin — 156
Beryl — 89
Bezoar — 126
Bibliotheca Cottoniana MS. — 26
——— Harleiana MS. — 27
——— Regia — 207
——— Regia MS. 25
——— Sloaniana — 204
——— Sloaniana MS. 33
Bird of Paradiſe — 195
Birds — 22, 191, 195
Biſmuth — 81
Bitumens — 78, 105
Black Crab from Jamaica 166
Blattæ — 175
Blood Stone — 60
Blue Eggs from Virginia 164

	Page
Boat Flies	178
—— Porcellain	140
—— Shells	138
Bracelets	60, 63
Brainſtone	21
Brander, Eſq; his Collection	100
Breeze Flies	183
Bricks ſtamped with Figures	59
Brimſtone	79
Bronzes	38, 43, 47, 52, 62, 199
Bruſhes made of Roots	57
Buccina	135
Buffalo's Head	7
Bufonites	121
Bulla	138
Bull Frog	193
Bupreſtes	174
Buſt of Sir Hans Sloane	9
Buſtos	46, 58
Butterflies	180

C.

Cactus	151
Cake, Sea	130
Calabaſhes	150

	Page
Calabaſh, large	64
Calamine	81
Calculi	125
Caliſtus, Head of	59
Caltrop Shell	137
Calumets of Peace	57
Cameleons	193
Cameos	169
Camphor	156
Canoes	202
Canopus	39
Capricorn Beetles	173
Cardia	144
Carolina Frog	193
Caſhew Nut	153
Caſſada Bread	198
Caſſidæ	172
Caſſowary	196
——— Eggs	162
Cats Eye	87
Celtes	49, 63
Centipes	185, 194
Centroniæ	130
Cerambices	173
Cervus volans	171
Chalices	49

Page
Chamæ — — 144
Chamber'd Limpets — — 132
Charters — — 29
China Pheasant's Eggs — 164
Chinese Porcellain — 140
Chrysolite — — 93
Chrysomelæ — — 172
Cicadæ — — 177
Cidares — — 130
Cimices — — 177
Circus, Models of — 47
Claw of Lobster, large — 166
Coals — — 78
Cobalt — — — 81
Cochineal — — 179
Cocci — — ibid.
Coccinellæ — — 172
Coccoons, Sea — — 151
Coccoons of Silkworms — 186
Cochleæ — — 133
Cochlites — — 103, 113
Cocoa Nuts — — 154
Coffee Berries — ibid.
Coffin of Mummy — 17
Concha Veneris — 144
Conchites — — 103, 116

Page
Condor's Quills — 187
Confetti di Tivoli — 107
Contrayerva — — 156
Cormorant's Eggs — 164
Copal — — 156
Coral — — 21, 99
—— Scollop Shell — 144
Corallia — — 157
Coralloides — — 103
Corn from Herculaneum 60, 63
Cornelians — — 67
Coronated Volutes — 140
Cotton — — 150
—— Stone — — 76
Cowries — — 140
Cramp Fish — — 196
Crickets — — 176
Crocodiles — 193, 195
—— Eggs — — 165
Crow, Iron — — 80
Crown Bird — — 196
Cruſtacea — — 166
Cryſtal — 66, 73, 98, 104
—— Metallic, from Ætna 62
Culices — — 184
Curculiones — — 173

Page
Cyclops Pig — — 190
Cylindri — — 139
Cynocephalus — — 42

D.

Deck Limpets — — 132
Dentalia — — 142
Dermeſtes — — 171
Deus Averruncus — 43
Diamond — — 96
——— Pitt's — 37
——— fine Roſe — 97
Dice — — — 60
Ditiſci — — 174
Dolia — — 138
Dolphin — — 196
Dragon Flies — — 179
Drawings, fine, by Monſ. Robert 205
——— by Madame Marian ibid.
Drums — — 58
——— Chineſe — 58, 65
——— American — 58
——— from Lapland — ibid
Ducal Mantle Shell — 144

E.

Page

Eagle — — 196
—— Eggs — — 164
—— Stone — — 108
Ear Shell — — 133
Echini Marini — — 130
Echino Melocactos — 191
Echinites — — 102, 117
Echinorum Radioli — 103, 132
Echites — — 110
Egg within another — 164
Eggs — — ibid.
Egg, Sea — — 130
Egyptian Antiquities — 38
——— Mummy — 12
——— Pebbles — 70, 85
Elatri — — 174
Elephant Beetle — 171
——— Back Bone — 23
——— Tuſks — — 148
Embalming — — 13
Emerald — — 94
Emew — — — 196
Endive Shell — — 137
Enhydros — — 109

	Page
Entomolithi	103
Entrochi	120
Ephemeron	179
Epitaphs	6
Erodialis	110
Eſchara	158
Ethiopian Crown	138
Eutocium	110

F.

Falſe Argus	140
Fans	65
Faſces, Tops of Roman	49
Feather Crowns	197
Fern, large	168
Fibulas, Roman	59
Flamingo	22, 195
Flies	183
Flints	66
Flying Fiſh	194, 196
——— Lizard	193
——— Squirrel	189
Formicæ	183
Foſſilia Bivalva	103
——— Multivalva	ibid.

Page
Foſſilia Univalva — 103
Foſſils — — 66, 101, 106
Freſco Paintings — 7, 23
Fructus — — 149, 194

G.

Gad Flies — — 183
Galbanum — — 156
Gallyworms — — 185
Gargoulettes — — 56
Garnet — — 91
Geodes — — 109
Giants Cauſeway — 2
Ginſeng — — 155
Gloſſopetra — — 121
Gnats — — 184
Gondola Shell — 139
Granate — — 91
Granite Columns — 4
Graptolithi — 104, 123
Grilli — — 176
Guanas — — 193, 195
——— Eggs — — 165
Guinea Corn — 154
Gum Elemi — — 156

Page
Gutti — — 54
Gypsum — — 72, 104

H.

Hall, Contents of — 2
Hammer Oyster — — 143
Hanging Nests — 162
Harpocrates — 19, 38, 40, 64
Harvest Flies — — 177
Hats — — 65
Heart Shells — — 144
Hebrew Letter Shells — 140
Heliotropium — — 68
Helmintholithi — — 110
Hercules Balbinus — 53
Hermit Crab — — 167
Hetruscan Antiquities — 45, 53
Hieroglyphics — — 17
Hippocampus — — 194
Hooded Snakes — — 193
Horned Owl — — 195
Horns of Animals — ibid.
——— of Mouse Deer — ibid.
——— of Unicorn Fish — 196
Horse Flies — — 183

Page
Hugh Lupus, his Sword of State 57
Human Heart Shell —— 154
Humming Birds — 192, 195
Hyacinth —— 90

I.

Jacinth — — 90
Janus bifrons —— 53
Japoneſe Pagod —— 55
Jaſper —— 68, 85, 99
Jaſpides — — ibid.
Jay from Eaſt Indies — 23
Ibis — — 17, 39
Ichneumones —— 182
Ichthyolithi —— 103, 121
Ichthyodontes —— 121
Idols, American —— 54
—— Egyptian 18, 39, 52, 64
Jets — — 78, 105
Jews Pitch —— 79
Incruſtations —— 100
Indian Pots — — 56
—— Shields — — 64
Inſcriptions —— 6
Inſecta — — 194

	Page
Inſtruments of Muſic, Indian	57
Intaglios	169
John Doree	194
Iſis	19, 38, 40
Juli	185
Jupiter Serapis	38

K.

Keratophyta	21, 157
Keys	60, 63
Kingfiſher	191
—— Eggs	164

L.

Lacrymatories	50, 53
La Foſſe	9
Lamps	59, 53
—— Metal, odd fancied	49
—— Sepulchral	50
Laocoon	24
Lapis Calaminaris	81
—— Lazuli	81, 85
—— Ollaris	74
—— Pregnans	110

	Page
Lava from Vesuvius	6
Leopard Shells	140
Lepturæ	173
Libellulæ	179
Ligna	149
Limpets	132
Lithotomi	110
Lizards	22, 193, 195
—— Eggs	165
Lobsters	166
Locustæ	176, 194
Lotus	17
Lucina	46
Ludus Helmontii	108

M.

Maccaw's Eggs	164
Madrepora	21, 158
Magna Charta	27
Maiz	154
Mantes	176
Mantle Scollops	144
Marble	70, 105
Marbled Scollop	144
Marcasites	79, 98, 105

Page
Marmora —— 70, 105
Maſks, uncommon — 47
Maſk Shells — — 139
Mathematical Inſtruments — 58
Matrices to ſtamp earthen Ware 63
Meaſures, Roman —— 60
Medals, Engliſh —— 28
——— French — — 29
——— Pontifical — 34
——— Sir Hans Sloane's — 30
——— Their Nature — ibid.
Medallions — — ibid.
Meduſa's Head —— 165
Metallica — — 80
Mica argentea — 75
—— aurea —— 74
Mill Beetles — — 175
Millepedes — — 184
Millepora — 21, 158
Millet — — 154
Mineralia — — 88
Minerals — 66, 80 101, 105
Miſcle Birds Eggs — 164
Miſſilia — — 30
Mitre Shell — — 135
Moçoes — — 67

	Page
Models by Simons	169
Mole Cricket	176
Mole Porcellain	140
Molucca Beans	152
Monkeys	189
Moon Stones	71
Moths	180
Mummy, Egyptian	12
Murices	136
Muſcæ	183
Muſcles	145
Muſical Inſtruments	57
Muſculi	145

N.

Natural Productions	21
Nautili	141
Nautiliti	102
Needle Shell	136
Nephritic Stone	69
Neritæ	134
Nepæ	178
Neſts of Birds	162
—— of Inſects	159, 186

Page
Nidi Avium — — 162
—— Insectorum — 159, 186
—— Serici — — ibid.
Nile — — — 8
Nilometri — — 42
Noah's Ark Shell — — 144
Notonectæ — — 178

O.

Oculus Cati — — 87
——— Mundi — — 88
Œstri — — — 183
Olive Shells — — 139
Onisci — — — 184
Onyx — — — 83
—— Shell — — 140
Opal — — — 86
Ophites — — 5, 68
Opossum — — — 190
Ores — — 81, 105
—— Cinnabar — — 81
—— Copper — — 81, 105
—— Gold — — ibid.
—— Iron — — ibid.
—— Lead — — ibid.

Page
Ores Quickſilver — — 81, 105
—— Silver — — ibid.
—— Tin — — ibid.
Oron Outon — — — 195
Orus — — 19, 38
Oſiris — — — 18, 38
Oſtracites — — 102, 115
Oſtrea — — — 143
Oſtrich's Eggs — — 164
Ova — — — ibid.
Owls Eggs — — — ibid.
Ox Heart Shell — — 144
Oyſters — — — 143

P.

Paintings, Freſco —— 7, 23
———— in Miniature —— 201
Palanquin, Model of —— 199
Paper Nautilus — — 141
Papiliones — — 180
Papyrus Bark — — 13
Parrots Eggs — — 164
Patellæ — — 132
Pateras, Hetruſcan —— 45
——— Roman — — 49

Page
Pearls — — 96
Pearl Oysters — — 194
Pea Shells — — 134
Pectines — — 143
Pectinites — — 102, 116
Penguins Eggs — — 164
Periapta — — 42
Persian Crown Shell — 139
Petrifactions — — 100
Phalenæ — — 180
Phœnician Seals — — 43
Phryganeæ — — 179
Phytolithi — — 104, 122
Piscium Partes — — 188
Pinna Marina — — 168
Placentæ — — 130
Porcellanæ — — 140
Porcellain Shells — — ibid.
Porcupine — — 195
——— Fish — — 196
Porphyry, Egyptian — 99
Portraits — — 10
Precious Stones — — 86
Prickly Oysters — — 143
——— Trochus — — 134
Purple Pearl — — 96

Page
Purpuræ — — 137
Pyrites Argenteus — — 105
——— Aureus — — 79, 80
Pyropus — — 86

Q.

Quadrupedia — — 188
Quills of Condor — — 187

R.

Rattle Snake — — 193
——— Root — 156
Remora — — 194
Reptilia — — 193
Reticulated white Chama — 144
Rhinoceros Beetle — — 171
——— Bird — 186
Rhombi — — — 139
Ribbon Snail — — 133
Ring Key — — 60
Roman Antiquities — 46
Roman Mantle Shell — 144
Root of Tea Plant — 200
Rouſſeau his Portrait — 9

Page
Royal Staircase Shell — 136
Ruby — — 95

S.

Sacrificing Instruments — 49
Saddle Oyster — — 143
Sailor Shells — — 141
Salamanders — — 193
Saloon — — — 123
Sapphire — — 95
Sardi — — — 66
Sardonyx — — — 83
Saw-fish — — — 196
—— Snout of — — ibid.
Scarabæi — — 170
Schwampam — — 199
Scollops — — 143
Scolopendræ — — 185
Scorpiones — — 185, 194
Screw-shells — — 135
Scythian Lamb — — 149
Seals, Phœnician — 43
—— Turkish — — 61
Sea Compasses — — 208
— Horse, Head of — 195

Page
Sea Lion, Head and Paw of — 196
— Polypus — — 194
— Locuſts — — 166
Selenites — — — 72
Semimetalla — — 81, 105
Serpentia — — 193
Serpentine Marble — 5, 68
Sertularia — — 21
Shark, young — — 196
Shark's Jaws — — 195
Shells, Foſſile — — 112
——— Recent — — 129
Shrimps — — — 166
Silices — — — 66
Siliquaſtræ — — 122
Silk-graſs — — 150
Simpulums — — 49
Siſtrum — — 38
Skeleton of a Whale — 196
——— Unicorn-fiſh —— 6
Sledges — — 66
Sloth — — — 189
Snails — — 133
Snake Stones — — 113
Snow Shoes —— —— 66
Snuff-box made of Lava — 62

	Page
Sope Berries	151
Spars	71, 104
Spata	ibid.
Speckled Heart-shells	144
Spiders	22, 184
Spider Shells	137
Spindle Shell	135
Spongiæ	156
Spur Shell	134
Stag Beetle	171
Stalactites	104, 106
Stampers	139
Staphilini	175
Star-fish	165
Stellæ Marinæ	165
Stilus	60
Strombi	135
Stucco Ceilings, Pieces of	57
Sturgeon	196
Styrax	156
Sulphur	74, 105
Sulphura	ibid.
Surinam Toad	193
Sword-fish, Head of	196
——— Snout of	ibid.

Page

T.

Tabani — — 183
Tahbahs — — 61
Talc — — — 75
Taliſmans — — 61
——— Turkiſh — ibid.
Tarantula — — 184
Tea Nuts — — 154
Teleſcope Shells — — 136
Tellinæ — — 145
Tenthredines — — 181
Termini — — 5
Terræ — — 124
Teſſelæ — — 60
Teſtaceæ — — 166
Teſtudines — — 186
Thiſtly Melon — — 151
Thorah —— —— 28
Thorny Heart-ſhells —— 144
——— Oyſter —— 143
Tiber —— —— 8
Tooth Shells — — 142
Torpedo — — 196

Tortoiſes

Page
Tortoiſes — — 186, 195
——— Eggs —— 165
Tortoiſe Porcellain Shell — 140
Toucan — — 187
Touch-ſtone — — 3
Tower of Babel Shell — 135
Trochi — — 134
Trochites — — 120
Tropic Bird — — 195
Trumpet Shells — — 135
Tubipora — — 159
Tubularia — — ibid.
Tun Shell — — 138
Turbines — — 135
Turcois — — 81, 88
Turkiſh Cap — — 151
Turtles — — 186, 194
——— Eggs — — 165
Tyger Shells — — 140

U.

Unicorn Beetle —— 171
——— Whelks —— 136
Urchins, Sea —— —— 130
Urns —— —— 45, 51, 53

Page
Urns Alabaſter — — 45
— Britiſh — — 52
— Roman — — ibid.
— Square — ibid.

V.

Vegetabilia — 142, 194
Venus's Heart Shell — 144
Vermes — — 186
Vermicularia — — 142
Veſpæ — — 182
Veſuvius — — 6
Via Appia, Stone from — 4
Vice-Admiral Shell — 140
Virginia Nightingale — 195
Volutæ — — 139
Votaries — — 47, 53
Vultur — — 196
Vultur's Head — 22

W.

Walking Leaves — 176
Walroſs, Head and Paws of — 196
Wampum — — 197

INDEX.

	Page
Wasps	182
—— Nests	22
Water Beetles	174
—— Scorpions	178
Weaver Shuttle Shell	140
Weights, Roman	60
Wendel Trap Shell	136
Whale, Skeleton of	196
Whisks, Indian	57
Wild Boar, young	195
Wild Man of the Mountains	ibid.
Wing Shells	137
Woodcock Shell	ibid.
Wood Beetles	171
Woodlice	184
Worm Shells	142
Worms	186, 194

Y.

Yellow Chama Shell	144
Yerbua	189

Z.

Zoolithi	103, 122

THE END.

ERRATA.

Page	9.	l. 8.	for Dome read Ceiling.
	12.	l. 6.	after *Homer* add in Bronze.
	20.	l. 11.	for greateſt read higheſt.
	21.	l. 4.	after Natural Productions read preſented by —— *Ellis*, Eſq;
	29.	l. 18.	for Cabinets read Preſſes.
	29.	——	N. B. The *French* Medals are in HARL. II.
	71.	l. 3.	dele from the Word ſome to Buildings, &c.
	99.	l. 11.	for Beetles read Bottles.
	112.	l. 16.	for as numerous as read more numerous than.
	116.	l. 15.	for Oyſters read Cockles.
	169.	l. 1.	for ſome read a great Number of.
	169.	l. 14.	for ſome read a Variety of.
	173.	l. 1.	after Curculiones add Cornworms.
	175.	l. 10.	after voracious add they are found in Vineyards.

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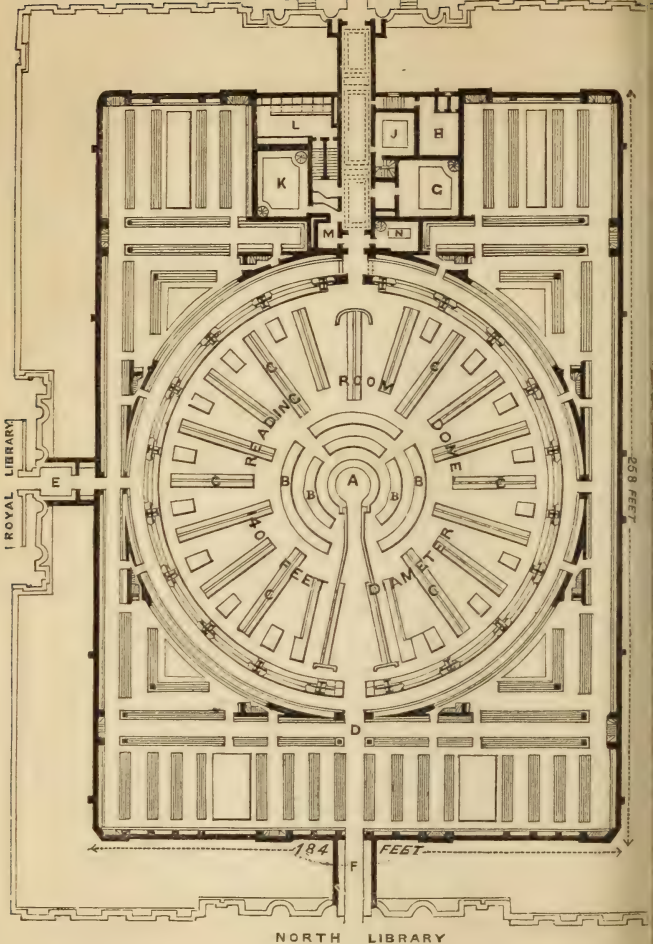

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C Readers' Tables.
D Access for Attendants.
E Entrance from Royal Library.
F Entrance from North Library.
G For Registration of Copyrights.
H Ladies' Cloak-Room.
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L For Gentlemen.
M Umbrella Room.
N Assistants' Room.

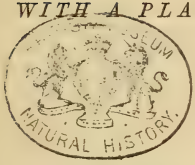
BRITISH MUSEUM.

NEW READING-ROOM

AND

LIBRARIES.

WITH A PLAN.



LONDON:

JOHN MURRAY, ALBEMARLE STREET.

1857.

CONTENTS.

	Page
INCREASE OF THE LIBRARY	5
ORIGIN OF NEW READING-ROOM AND LIBRARIES	7
CONSTRUCTION OF NEW READING-ROOM AND LIBRARIES	9
DECORATION, &c. OF NEW READING-ROOM	13
ARRANGEMENTS OF NEW READING-ROOM	14

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NEW READING-ROOM AND LIBRARIES.

The new Reading-Room and Libraries of the British Museum are now completed. The *Times*, in a leading article on the 7th of May last year, contained a general description of the building then in progress, and we gladly avail ourselves of the permission liberally granted by that Journal to extract from its pages the substance of another article which appeared on the 21st of April last, containing concise but very accurate details of the construction as it exists in its state of completeness.

"Its site, in the internal quadrangle of the Museum, has concealed its progress from the public eye, although the lofty and capacious edifice occupies an area of 48,000 superficial feet. This site was indeed its proper and only situation, from the obvious necessity of the new Reading-room being adjacent to the vast magazines of books and manuscripts contained in the various apartments of the Museum.

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"The utter insufficiency of the institution for book room and accommodation for readers existed during the last four Parliaments, and without a remedy. The public, the trustees, men of letters in the Legislature, in vain devised various plans, and demanded pecuniary aid from the Commons. Select committee reports and annual returns followed in succession. It is sufficient now to refer our readers to the two volumes of reports in 1835 and 1836, and to the various Parliamentary returns asked for since 1850; to similar Parliamentary volumes on Public Libraries in 1849 and 1850; and, lastly, to the effective Report of the Royal Commission (with 800 appended folio pages of evidence) appointed to inquire into the constitution and government of the Museum. The practical result was an unanimous representation of the Commissioners that 'the subject of additions to the Museum was one which must evidently, at no distant period, engage the attention of Her Majesty's Government.' Mr. Hume, fortunately, was an active member of the Commission, and concurred from honest conviction in the necessity of an early and munificent grant of public money. The Royal Commissioners, reporting the inadequacy of book-room, the injury to the valuable contents of the library by the existing reading-room arrangements, the slave-labour of the attendants, and the bad accommodation of the readers, stated that 'these circumstances have suggested to Mr. Panizzi a scheme of extension by which the buildings to be constructed would

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Construction of New Reading-Room and Libraries.

"The Reading-room is circular. The entire building does not occupy the whole quadrangle, there being a clear interval of from 27 to 30 feet all round, to give light and air to the surrounding buildings, and as a guard against possible destruction by fire from the outer parts of the Museum. The dome of this Reading-room is 140 feet in diameter, its height being 106 feet. In this dimension of diameter it is only inferior to the Pantheon of Rome by 2 feet; St. Peter's being only 139; Sta. Maria in Florence, 139; the tomb of Mahomet, Bejapore, 135; St. Paul's, 112; St. Sophia, Constantinople, 107, and the Church at Darmstadt, 105. The new Reading-room contains 1,250,000 cubic feet of space; its 'suburbs,' or surrounding libraries, 750,000. The building is constructed principally of iron, with brick arches between the main ribs, supported by 20 iron piers, having a sectional area of 10 superficial feet to each, including the brick casing, or 200 feet in all. This saving of space by the use of iron is remarkable, the piers of support on which our dome rests only thus occupying 200 feet, whereas the piers of the Pantheon of Rome fill 7477 feet of area, and those of the tomb of Mahomet 5593. Upwards of 2000 tons of iron have been employed in the construction. The weight of the materials used in the dome is about 4200 tons—viz. upwards of 200 tons on each pier. The first standard was only fixed in January, 1855. The framework and scaffolding upon which the dome rested were removed on the 2nd of the following June. No subsidence or 'set' of material was observable on the wedges being removed. The entire dome was roofed in and copper covering laid in September, 1855. The roof is formed into two separate spherical and concentric air chambers, extending over the whole surface; one

between the external covering and brick vaulting, the object being the equalization of temperature during extremes of heat and cold out of doors; the other chamber, between the brick vaulting and the internal visible surface, being intended to carry off the vitiated air from the Reading-room. This ventilation is effected through apertures in the soffites of the windows, and partly by others at the top of the dome; the bad air passing through outlets provided around the lantern. In order to obviate the effects of condensation, all the skylights, lanterns, and windows throughout the building are double. The quantity of glass used amounts to about 60,000 superficial feet. In order to guard against the consequences of an avalanche of snow falling from the dome on to the surrounding libraries, the building has been carried up outside perpendicular to such a height above the spring of the arch as to form a gallery nine feet in width, provided with proper outlets, by which the snow is intercepted.

"This Reading-room contains ample and comfortable accommodation for 300 readers. Each person will have allotted to him a space of 4 feet 3 inches long. He is screened from the opposite occupant by a longitudinal division, which is fitted with a hinged desk graduated on sloping racks, and a folding shelf for spare books. In the space between the two, which is recessed, an inkstand is fixed, having suitable penholders. Thus the whole table-top is free from writing implements or other embarrassments, and every precaution is taken to preserve the books if the readers will but use common care.

"The framework of each table is of iron, forming air-distributing channels, which are contrived so that the air may be delivered at the top of the longitudinal screen division, above the level of the heads of the readers, or, if desired, only at each end pedestal of the tables, all the outlets being under the control of valves. A tubular footrail also passes from end to end of each table, which may have a current of warm water through it at pleasure, and be used as a footwarmer if required.

"The Catalogue tables, with shelves under, and air-distributing tubes between, are ranged in two concentric circles around the central superintendent's enclosure or raised platform, the latter being fitted with tables, ticket-boxes, and with dwarf partitions surmounted by glass screens, dividing a passage leading to the surrounding libraries. The pedestals of the tables form tubes communicating with the air-chamber below, which is 6 feet high, and occupies the whole area of the Reading-room. It is fitted with hot-water pipes, arranged in radiating lines. The supply of fresh air is obtained from a shaft 60 feet high, built on the north side of the north wing about 300 feet distant, communicating with a tunnel or sub-way, which has branches or 'loop-lines' fitted with valves for diverting the current either wholly through the heating apparatus, or through the cold-air flues, or partly through either, as occasion may require. The air-channels are of sufficient capacity to admit a supply of fresh air for 500 persons at the rate of 10 cubic feet per minute, and at a velocity not exceeding 1·0 foot per second. For summer ventilation steam-pipes, placed at the summit of the roofs and dome, will be heated, and extract the foul air when the external and internal temperature is unfavourable for the purpose.

"The arrangement of the presses is throughout peculiar. It is calculated that the shelves within the Dome-room will contain 80,000 volumes. Two lifts are placed at convenient stations for the purpose of raising the books to the level of the several gallery floors. The bookcases are of novel and simple construction, the uprights or standards being formed of malleable iron galvanized and framed together, having fillets of beech inserted between the iron to receive the brass pins upon which the shelves rest. The framework of the book-cases forms the support for the iron perforated floors of the gallery avenues, and which are generally 8 feet wide, the central 6 feet being appropriated to the perforated floor, and the remainder being a clear space between the back of the books and the flooring, by which contrivance the light from the skylights (in all cases extending to the full width

of the avenues) is thrown down the back of the books on each story, so that the lettering may be easily discerned throughout the book ranges.

"The shelves are formed of iron galvanized plates, edged with wainscot and covered with russet hide leather, and having a book-fall attached. They are fitted at each end with galvanized iron leather covered, and wadded pads placed next the skeleton bookcase framing, to prevent injury to the binding when the books are taken out or replaced. Between these pads the skeleton framing of the cases forms an aperture by which a current of air may pass and ventilation be kept up throughout. The shelves rest upon brass pins, the holes for which are pierced at three-quarters of an inch apart from centre to centre; but by a contrivance in cranking the shaft of the pin, which may be turned upwards or downwards, this interval is practically halved, and the position of the shelves may be altered three-eighths of an inch at a time. There are 2,750,000 of these holes!

"In all cases, except against the external walls, the bookcases are double, the books being placed on both sides, a lattice of iron-work being fixed for their longitudinal separation. Thus, throughout the whole interior of the new building there are no walls, the division being in all cases formed of a double range of books, fore-edge to fore-edge. The only exception is at the shelving provided for newspapers, a single range of which necessarily occupies the space of two ranges of books. Three thousand superficial feet of cases are provided for newspapers.

"For convenience of access to the galleries, the staircases have been placed so that, throughout the building, they are within 40 feet of each other. The building contains 3 miles lineal of bookcases, 8 feet high; assuming them all to be spaced for the averaged octavo book size, the entire ranges form 25 miles of shelves. Assuming the shelves to be filled with books, of paper of average thickness, the leaves placed edge to edge would extend about 25,000 miles, or more than three times the diameter of the globe!

"The cost, about 150,000*l.*, includes the fittings and furniture and the necessary shelves for immediate use.

Decoration, &c. of New Reading-Room.

"In the decoration of the interior dome, light colours and the purest gilding have been preferred. The great room, therefore, has an illuminated and elegant aspect. The decorative work may be shortly described:—The inner surface of the dome is divided into twenty compartments by moulded ribs, which are gilded with leaf prepared from unalloyed gold, the soffites being in ornamental patterns, and the edges touching the adjoining margins fringed with a leaf-pattern scolloped edge. Each compartment contains a circular-headed window, 27 feet high and 12 feet wide, with three panels above, the central one being medallion-shaped, the whole bordered with gilt mouldings and lines, and the field of the panels finished in encaustic azure blue, the surrounding margins being of a warm cream-colour. The details of the windows are treated in like manner,—the spandril panels blue; the enriched column and pilaster caps, the central flowers, the border moulding and lines being all gilded; the margins cream-colour throughout. The moulded rim of the lantern light, which is painted and gilded to correspond, is 40 feet diameter. The sash is formed of gilt moulded ribs radiating from a central medallion, in which the Royal monogram is alternated with the Imperial Crown.

"The cornice, from which the dome springs, is massive and almost wholly gilded, the frieze being formed into panels bounded by lines terminating at the ends with a gilt fret ornament. Each compartment of the dome is marked by a bold enriched gilt console, which forms at once the support of the main rib and the base for a colossal marble statue, a series of which it is proposed to place on the cornice.

"Between the cornice and the floor the space is filled with the bookcases and galleries of access, the cornice, standards, and railings of which are wholly gilded, the panels of the soffites of the latter being blue, having gilded ornaments therein.

"The tables and enclosures are of wainscot, the chairs of mahogany, the floors being covered with kamptulicon.

"The main entrance into the new Reading-room is direct from the Great Hall, and there are secondary entrances for the officers from the King's Library and the Great Northern Library rooms, through which all books are conveyed to the centre of the Reading-room, whence they are distributed.

"The amalgamation of the several catalogues, which are drawn up on various plans, into one catalogue prepared on a uniform plan, is proceeding rapidly. Letters A, B, C, D, E, F constitute about one-third of the entire catalogue, and this portion, completed, will be placed in the new Reading-room on its opening; it will be comprised in nearly 500 volumes. The completion of this Herculean work is now under the responsible superintendence of Mr. J. Winter Jones, the successor of Mr. Panizzi in the keepership of the department of printed books, Mr. Panizzi being now the Principal Librarian."

"The architect, Mr. Smirke, has the merit of the preparation of the original and first designs. The contractors, Messrs. Baker and Fielder, share no common deserts in their professional labours. Indeed the skill, perseverance, and ingenious resources of their managing partner, Mr. Fielder, have been beyond all praise. It is gratifying to record that such a vast and lofty building has been completed without loss of a single life or any serious accident." The warming and ventilating arrangements have been carried out by Messrs. Hadon of Trowbridge.

Arrangements of New Reading-Room.

We will now proceed to describe more at length the internal fittings and arrangements of the Reading-room, which will be better understood by reference to the plan which forms the frontispiece to this paper. A, on the plan, shows the circular enclosure occupied by the Superintendent, the Clerk, and the attendants. The Trustees, having succeeded in providing for the public a Reading-room superior

in its construction and appointments to all other buildings of the same class, have determined to afford the readers every possible facility in the prosecution of their various inquiries. With this view they have selected one of the superior officers of the Library, and placed the general management of the Reading-room in his hands. This officer is also charged with the special duty of assisting the readers in their researches; and, from his central position in the Reading-room, will be readily accessible to all, and able to superintend the whole service. This gentleman, possessing a large store of miscellaneous information, an extensive acquaintance with the languages and literature of modern Europe, and an intimate knowledge of the contents of the Library, is eminently qualified to discharge the duties confided to him to the great advantage of the readers. It is anticipated that, by this arrangement, the Trustees will meet a want which has been long felt, and will infinitely increase the utility of the National Library to all who desire to consult it.

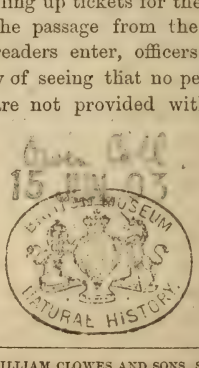
B indicates the catalogue-tables, which are arranged round the Superintendent's enclosure. In addition to the catalogues, these tables will be furnished with printed tickets, containing on one side the regulations to be observed by the readers in applying for and returning the manuscripts and printed books they desire to use, and on the other a form to be filled up with certain particulars relating to the works they send for.

C represents the tables. These are 35 in number; eight are 34 feet long, and accommodate 16 readers, 8 on each side; nine are 30 feet long, and accommodate 14 readers, 7 on each side; two are 30 feet long, and accommodate 8 readers each, viz. 7 on one side and 1 on the other; these two tables are set apart for the exclusive use of ladies; sixteen other tables are 6 feet long, and accommodate 2 readers each; these have no divisions between them, and are fitted up with rising desks of a large size for those readers who may have occasion to consult works beyond the usual dimensions.

E, F, D show the openings leading from the North Library and the King's Library to the New Reading-room. When readers have filled up their tickets they hand them to the attendants in the central enclosure, by whom they are passed to other attendants, whose duty it is to fetch the printed books or manuscripts from the shelves of the libraries. Through these openings, D, E, and F, the books are brought to the central enclosure, and thence conveyed by the Reading-room attendants to the readers ; the readers' tickets, filled up as above described, being then deposited in boxes constructed for the purpose within the superintendent's enclosure, and retained until the books they respectively describe have been returned by the readers, when the tickets are given up.

The book-presses under the gallery are filled with a large library of reference for the use of the readers, comprising most of the standard works on the various branches of learning, and an extensive collection of dictionaries of all languages, biographical works, encyclopædias, parliamentary histories, topographical works, &c. &c. These books, which are about 20,000 in number, the readers can consult at pleasure without filling up tickets for them.

On each side of the passage from the Entrance Hall, through which the readers enter, officers will be placed, charged with the duty of seeing that no persons pass to the Reading-room who are not provided with the necessary ticket of admission.



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3

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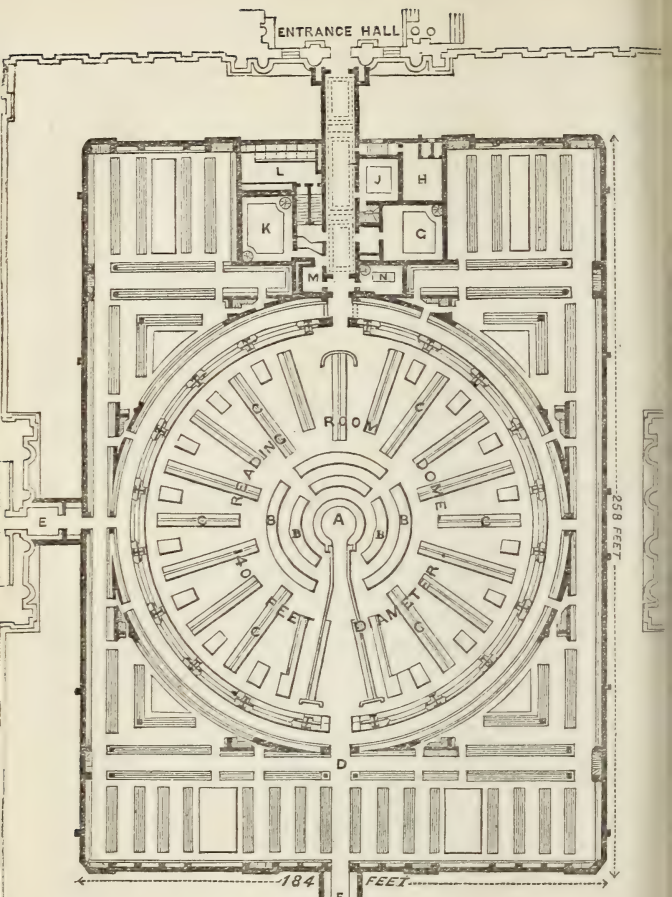
Price One Penny.



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be seen; still it was a beginning, and laid the foundation. Within three years the vast structure has been completed, at the cost of 150,000*l.*, or about that sum when all contingent expenses are accounted for.

CONSTRUCTION OF NEW READING-ROOM AND LIBRARIES.

"The Reading-room is circular. The entire building does not occupy the whole quadrangle, there being a clear interval of from 27 to 30 feet all round, to give light and air to the surrounding buildings, and as a guard against possible destruction by fire from the outer parts of the Museum. The dome of this Reading-room is 140 feet in diameter, its height being 106 feet. In this dimension of diameter it is only inferior to the Pantheon of Rome by 2 feet; St. Peter's being only 139; Sta. Maria in Florence, 139; the tomb of Mahomet, Bejapore, 135; St. Paul's, 112; St. Sophia, Constantinople, 107, and the Church at Darmstadt, 105. The new Reading-room contains 1,250,000 cubic feet of space; its 'suburbs,' or surrounding libraries, 750,000. The building is constructed principally of iron, with brick arches between the main ribs, supported by 20 iron piers, having a sectional area of 10 superficial feet to each, including the brick casing, or 200 feet in all. This saving of space by the use of iron is remarkable, the piers of support on which our dome rests only thus occupying 200 feet, whereas the piers of the Pantheon of Rome fill 7477 feet of area, and those of the tomb of Mahomet 5593. Upwards of 2000 tons of iron have been employed in the construction. The weight of the materials used in the dome is about 4200 tons—viz. upwards of 200 tons on each pier. The first standard was only fixed in January, 1855. The framework and scaffolding upon which the dome rested were removed on the 2nd of the following June. No subsidence or 'set' of material was observable on the wedges being removed. The entire dome was roofed in and copper covering laid in September, 1855. The roof is formed into two separate spherical and concentric air chambers, extending over the whole surface; one

between the external covering and brick vaulting, the object being the equalization of temperature during extremes of heat and cold out of doors; the other chamber, between the brick vaulting and the internal visible surface, being intended to carry off the vitiated air from the Reading-room. This ventilation is effected through apertures in the soffites of the windows, and partly by others at the top of the dome; the bad air passing through outlets provided around the lantern. In order to obviate the effects of condensation, all the skylights, lanterns, and windows throughout the building are double. The quantity of glass used amounts to about 60,000 superficial feet. In order to guard against the consequences of an avalanche of snow falling from the dome on to the surrounding libraries, the building has been carried up outside perpendicular to such a height above the spring of the arch as to form a gallery nine feet in width, provided with proper outlets, by which the snow is intercepted.

"This Reading-room contains ample and comfortable accommodation for 300 readers. Each person will have allotted to him a space of 4 feet 3 inches long. He is screened from the opposite occupant by a longitudinal division, which is fitted with a hinged desk graduated on sloping racks, and a folding shelf for spare books. In the space between the two, which is recessed, an inkstand is fixed, having suitable penholders. Thus the whole table-top is free from writing implements or other embarrassments, and every precaution is taken to preserve the books if the readers will but use common care.

"The framework of each table is of iron, forming air-distributing channels, which are contrived so that the air may be delivered at the top of the longitudinal screen division, above the level of the heads of the readers, or, if desired, only at each end pedestal of the tables, all the outlets being under the control of valves. A tubular footrail also passes from end to end of each table, which may have a current of warm water through it at pleasure, and be used as a footwarmer if required.

"The Catalogue tables, with shelves under, and air-distributing tubes between, are ranged in two concentric circles around the central superintendent's enclosure or raised platform, the latter being fitted with tables, ticket-boxes, and with dwarf partitions surmounted by glass screens, dividing a passage leading to the surrounding libraries. The pedestals of the tables form tubes communicating with the air-chamber below, which is 6 feet high, and occupies the whole area of the Reading-room. It is fitted with hot-water pipes, arranged in radiating lines. The supply of fresh air is obtained from a shaft 60 feet high, built on the north side of the north wing about 300 feet distant, communicating with a tunnel or sub-way, which has branches or 'loop-lines' fitted with valves for diverting the current either wholly through the heating apparatus, or through the cold-air flues, or partly through either, as occasion may require. The air-channels are of sufficient capacity to admit a supply of fresh air for 500 persons at the rate of 10 cubic feet per minute, and at a velocity not exceeding 1·0 foot per second. For summer ventilation steam-pipes, placed at the summit of the roofs and dome, will be heated, and extract the foul air when the external and internal temperature is unfavourable for the purpose.

"The arrangement of the presses is throughout peculiar. It is calculated that the shelves within the Dome-room will contain 80,000 volumes. Two lifts are placed at convenient stations for the purpose of raising the books to the level of the several gallery floors. The bookcases are of novel and simple construction, the uprights or standards being formed of malleable iron galvanized and framed together, having fillets of beech inserted between the iron to receive the brass pins upon which the shelves rest. The framework of the book-cases forms the support for the iron perforated floors of the gallery avenues, and which are generally 8 feet wide, the central 6 feet being appropriated to the perforated floor, and the remainder being a clear space between the back of the books and the flooring, by which contrivance the light from the skylights (in all cases extending to the full width

of the avenues) is thrown down the back of the books on each story, so that the lettering may be easily discerned throughout the book ranges.

"The shelves are formed of iron galvanized plates, edged with wainscot and covered with russet hide leather, and having a book-fall attached. They are fitted at each end with galvanized iron leather covered, and wadded pads placed next the skeleton bookcase framing, to prevent injury to the binding when the books are taken out or replaced. Between these pads the skeleton framing of the cases forms an aperture by which a current of air may pass and ventilation be kept up throughout. The shelves rest upon brass pins, the holes for which are pierced at three-quarters of an inch apart from centre to centre; but by a contrivance in cranking the shaft of the pin, which may be turned upwards or downwards, this interval is practically halved, and the position of the shelves may be altered three-eighths of an inch at a time. There are 2,750,000 of these holes!

"In all cases, except against the external walls, the bookcases are double, the books being placed on both sides, a lattice of iron-work being fixed for their longitudinal separation. Thus, throughout the whole interior of the new building there are no walls, the division being in all cases formed of a double range of books, fore-edge to fore-edge. The only exception is at the shelving provided for newspapers, a single range of which necessarily occupies the space of two ranges of books. Three thousand superficial feet of cases are provided for newspapers.

"For convenience of access to the galleries, the staircases have been placed so that, throughout the building, they are within 40 feet of each other. The building contains 3 miles lineal of bookcases, 8 feet high; assuming them all to be spaced for the averaged octavo book size, the entire ranges form 25 miles of shelves. Assuming the shelves to be filled with books, of paper of average thickness, the leaves placed edge to edge would extend about 25,000 miles, or more than three times the diameter of the globe!

"The cost, about 150,000*l.*, includes the fittings and furniture and the necessary shelves for immediate use.

Decoration, &c. of New Reading-Room.

"In the decoration of the interior dome, light colours and the purest gilding have been preferred. The great room, therefore, has an illuminated and elegant aspect. The decorative work may be shortly described:—The inner surface of the dome is divided into twenty compartments by moulded ribs, which are gilded with leaf prepared from unalloyed gold, the soffites being in ornamental patterns, and the edges touching the adjoining margins fringed with a leaf-pattern scolloped edge. Each compartment contains a circular-headed window, 27 feet high and 12 feet wide, with three panels above, the central one being medallion-shaped, the whole bordered with gilt mouldings and lines, and the field of the panels finished in encaustic azure blue, the surrounding margins being of a warm cream-colour. The details of the windows are treated in like manner,—the spandril panels blue; the enriched column and pilaster caps, the central flowers, the border moulding and lines being all gilded; the margins cream-colour throughout. The moulded rim of the lantern light, which is painted and gilded to correspond, is 40 feet diameter. The sash is formed of gilt moulded ribs radiating from a central medallion, in which the Royal monogram is alternated with the Imperial Crown.

"The cornice, from which the dome springs, is massive and almost wholly gilded, the frieze being formed into panels bounded by lines terminating at the ends with a gilt fret ornament. Each compartment of the dome is marked by a bold enriched gilt console, which forms at once the support of the main rib and the base for a colossal marble statue, a series of which it is proposed to place on the cornice.

"Between the cornice and the floor the space is filled with the bookcases and galleries of access, the cornice, standards, and railings of which are wholly gilded, the panels of the soffites of the latter being blue, having gilded ornaments therein.

"The tables and enclosures are of wainscot, the chairs of mahogany, the floors being covered with kamptulicon.

"The main entrance into the new Reading-room is direct from the Great Hall, and there are secondary entrances for the officers from the King's Library and the Great Northern Library rooms, through which all books are conveyed to the centre of the Reading-room, whence they are distributed.

"The amalgamation of the several catalogues, which are drawn up on various plans, into one catalogue prepared on a uniform plan, is proceeding rapidly. Letters A, B, C, D, E, F constitute about one-third of the entire catalogue, and this portion, completed, will be placed in the new Reading-room on its opening; it will be comprised in nearly 500 volumes. The completion of this Herculean work is now under the responsible superintendence of Mr. J. Winter Jones, the successor of Mr. Panizzi in the keepership of the department of printed books, Mr. Panizzi being now the Principal Librarian."

"The architect, Mr. Smirke, has the merit of the preparation of the original and first designs. The contractors, Messrs. Baker and Fielder, share no common deserts in their professional labours. Indeed the skill, perseverance, and ingenious resources of their managing partner, Mr. Fielder, have been beyond all praise. It is gratifying to record that such a vast and lofty building has been completed without loss of a single life or any serious accident." The warming and ventilating arrangements have been carried out by Messrs. Haden of Trowbridge.

Arrangements of New Reading-Room.

We will now proceed to describe more at length the internal fittings and arrangements of the Reading-room, which will be better understood by reference to the plan which forms the frontispiece to this paper. A, on the plan, shows the circular enclosure occupied by the Superintendent, the Clerk, and the attendants. The Trustees, having succeeded in providing for the public a Reading-room superior

in its construction and appointments to all other buildings of the same class, have determined to afford the readers every possible facility in the prosecution of their various inquiries. With this view they have selected one of the superior officers of the Library, and placed the general management of the Reading-room in his hands. This officer is also charged with the special duty of assisting the readers in their researches; and, from his central position in the Reading-room, will be readily accessible to all, and able to superintend the whole service. This gentleman, possessing a large store of miscellaneous information, an extensive acquaintance with the languages and literature of modern Europe, and an intimate knowledge of the contents of the Library, is eminently qualified to discharge the duties confided to him to the great advantage of the readers. It is anticipated that, by this arrangement, the Trustees will meet a want which has been long felt, and will infinitely increase the utility of the National Library to all who desire to consult it.

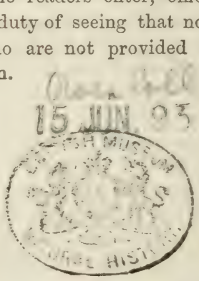
B indicates the catalogue-tables, which are arranged round the Superintendent's enclosure. In addition to the catalogues, these tables will be furnished with printed tickets, containing on one side the regulations to be observed by the readers in applying for and returning the manuscripts and printed books they desire to use, and on the other a form to be filled up with certain particulars relating to the works they send for.

C represents the tables. These are 35 in number; eight are 34 feet long, and accommodate 16 readers, 8 on each side; nine are 30 feet long, and accommodate 14 readers, 7 on each side; two are 30 feet long, and accommodate 8 readers each, viz. 7 on one side and 1 on the other; these two tables are set apart for the exclusive use of ladies; sixteen other tables are 6 feet long, and accommodate 2 readers each; these have no divisions between them, and are fitted up with rising desks of a large size for those readers who may have occasion to consult works beyond the usual dimensions.

E, F, D show the openings leading from the North Library and the King's Library to the New Reading-room. When readers have filled up their tickets they hand them to the attendants in the central enclosure, by whom they are passed to other attendants, whose duty it is to fetch the printed books or manuscripts from the shelves of the libraries. Through these openings, D, E, and F, the books are brought to the central enclosure, and thence conveyed by the Reading-room attendants to the readers; the readers' tickets, filled up as above described, being then deposited in boxes constructed for the purpose within the superintendent's enclosure, and retained until the books they respectively describe have been returned by the readers, when the tickets are given up.

The book-presses under the gallery are filled with a large library of reference for the use of the readers, comprising most of the standard works on the various branches of learning, and an extensive collection of dictionaries of all languages, biographical works, encyclopædias, parliamentary histories, topographical works, &c. &c. These books, which are about 20,000 in number, the readers can consult at pleasure without filling up tickets for them.

On each side of the passage from the Entrance Hall, through which the readers enter, officers will be placed, charged with the duty of seeing that no persons pass to the Reading-room who are not provided with the necessary ticket of admission.



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The British Museum Explained and Illustrated.

BY P. H. RICHARDSON, ESQ.

CHAPTER I.—THE QUADRANGLE AND HALL.

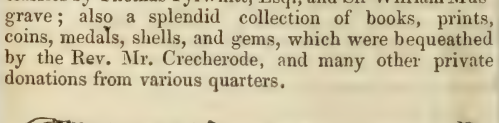
THE object of the articles in this publication relating to the British Museum, is an attempt to introduce the general visitor to a more ready and intimate knowledge of its treasures, natural, antiquarian, scientific, and barbaric, than can be otherwise obtained, except by study and a devotion of life and time, which few are able to afford. As the spectator passes through the immense collection with the synopsian guide in his hand, which however well it is designed, is necessarily but a catalogue of its contents, his imagination becomes confused with the multiplicity and grandeur of the objects presented to his sight. On referring to his guide he in vain seeks for instruction, for some explanation of the objects he sees, and of the greater part of which he is entirely unacquainted; all he finds are the names of the enigmas; and though he may admire the wonderful creations of nature, the primeval attempts of barbarian genius, or the unequalled perfection of antiquarian art, yet in general he sees them but as the passive dreams of imagination; their volubility is diminished or lost. It will in this attempt be our endeavour, in some measure, to remedy this, not only by giving a passing description of the entire contents of this unrivalled establishment, but by selecting some excelling portion of every class, by which a general yet more perfect knowledge of the whole may be obtained, and thus that which for the reasons alleged is now in general seen but as a strange yet interesting show, may become better comprehended and known. Of those subjects in the collection which more particularly excite notice and mark each class, engravings are given, in which all meritorious ornament or attempt at effect is avoided, and only true and exact representations are given.

This ancient building in which the British Museum is formed was the mansion of the Duke of Montague, in London, in the reign of Queen Anne; it was built by him on a French plan, on his return from his embassy in France; the architect was Peter Paget, a native of Marseilles. His reputation as an artist was great at the time. It succeeded an edifice which was designed by Dr. Hook in 1674, and which was destroyed by fire two years after; the length is two hundred and sixteen feet, and the height to the cornice is fifty-seven. It consists of one quadrangle, the south side of which is in the same style as Burlington-house, and has an Ionic colonnade; the wings are the dwellings of the officers connected with the establishment; the edifice itself possesses neither beauty nor convenience; the exterior wall and entrance has the heavy elevation of baronial pride, and the interior of the court has the same character. Immediately within the entrance of the main body of the building, on the northern side, is a large and lofty hall and staircase, decorated in fresco by Rousseau and Le Fosse—the first the apotheosis of Isis, and the assembly of the gods by the last. They are masterly designed and executed, but neglect more than age, perhaps, has almost entirely defaced them.

At the time of the formation of the Museum in 1752, in conformity to the will of the celebrated Sir Hans Sloane, (who left his museum to the nation, on condition that the parliament provided a house sufficiently adapted for its reception, and also paid to his executors the sum of twenty thousand pounds for that which had cost him fifty,) the institution was formed. To this collection, which at that time was of far greater importance than it is at the present day, and was then classed among the first in Europe, others were added, at the time, by order of parliament, which, with the purchase of the building united, amounted to the sum of eighty-five thousand pounds. This sum was raised by way of lottery.

Being immediately under the care of government, the concerns of the Museum are conducted by fifteen trustees, who rank among the highest and most honourable officers of the state. This noble collection contains, besides the Sloanian museum, the libraries of Sir Robert Cotton, and Major Edwards, the celebrated Harleian collection of manuscripts, the Greek and Etruscan vases of Sir William Hamilton, the marbles and bas

reliefs which were collected by Mr. Townly, the manuscripts of the late Marquis of Lansdowne, and the unique spoils celebrated through all antiquity of the Parthenon at Athens, the celebrated temple of Minerva called the Elgin marbles. The whole library of the books and manuscripts collected by the kings of England, from the reign of Henry the Seventh to William the Third, was presented to it by George the Second. A collection of pamphlets published between 1640 and 1660, and containing all the political occurrences of that eventful period was given to it by George the Third, also by George the Fourth the celebrated royal library which had been collected by his father. In 1803, that collection of Egyptian antiquities which had been sedulously chosen by the savans of Napoleon in his invasion of Egypt, were, after the capitulation of Alexandria, deposited here by government. Among later acquisitions are Greenwood's collection of stuffed birds, Halked's minerals, and oriental manuscripts, Tyssend's collection of Saxon coins, Dr. Bentley's classics, the Greville collection of minerals, Dr. Birch's library, Gustavus Branders' collection of fossils, and the collection of classics by Thomas Tyrwhitt, Esq., and Sir William Musgrave; also a splendid collection of books, prints, coins, medals, shells, and gems, which were bequeathed by the Rev. Mr. Crecherode, and many other private donations from various quarters.



On entering the court-yard of the Museum, the attention of the visitor is attracted by some remains of antiquity which meet his view; among them is one which more particularly deserves notice, as it is, perhaps, the most ancient relic of naval architecture of our ancestors which has reached our time. It is a canoe or boat which some few years ago was discovered at Petworth, in Sussex, on the estate of the late Earl of Egremont. In the left bank of the river Arun, at the village of North Stoke, three miles from Arundel, near the South Downs, in a meadow between the villages of North and South Stoke,

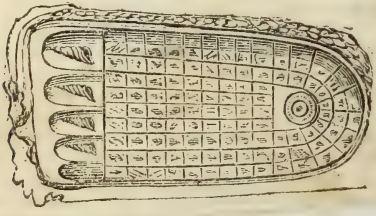
where the river takes a turn in a creek that runs into it, there this canoe was found embedded in the mud, one part was completely buried, and the other was visible about two feet under water. From time immemorial it had been thought to be the stump of an old tree, and was allowed to remain there, as it formed a support for one end of a flat wooden bridge which connected the two meadows, the same as are generally employed in like situations. Thus situated, and thus considered, it formed no impediment to the flow of water which passed in front, and it remained undisturbed. About 20 years ago a farmer who wanted the land, thought proper to straiten the line by cutting off the curved part; this brought the flow of water angularly across the old piece of timber, and he cut away as much of the wood as intercepted the drain. A bridge soon after having been built higher up, it was thought proper to remove the old piece of timber, or old tree, as it was supposed. Upon the labourers employed to effect this, finding how large it was, they attached eleven horses to it by an iron chain, and then, with great difficulty, drew it to the land, with its load of mud and flint. Its real form and character were then discernible; it proved to be one half of the stem of a large oak, hollowed and cut into the shape of a canoe. The extreme toughness of its substance is shown, that although its thickness is but four inches and a half at the bottom of the vessel, and the stem to which the chain was fastened, and by which it was drawn up the sloping bank, is elevated four feet, while the opposite end was in the water, with its load of mud in it, it still resisted the action and counteraction of these forces in safety, and was drawn entire to the flat surface. The size of this vessel is as follows:—Its length is thirty-four feet, its depth one foot ten inches, the width in the middle four feet six, and its thickness at the bottom four inches and a-half; one foot and a-half at the stem, and one foot eight inches at the stern, and the sides one inch and a half. At the bottom three bars are left at different distances, which serve to strengthen the whole, and give a firm footing to those who worked the vessel. It has no appearance of its having had a rudder attached to it; but there is a notch, which probably has been for the oar which guided

it. Of its antiquity there are but slight means of judging; but its blackened condition and fibrous texture prove, like that of wood buried in bogs, that it must have been for ages immersed in water. The extreme simplicity of its construction indicates that it must have been the production of an early and rude condition of man. It is of much greater antiquity than the vessel found some years since in the bed of the Rother, as it has the appearance of having been hollowed by fire. From a combination of circumstances, it may, with safety, be regarded as a relic of the aboriginal Britons, and wrought before or soon after the arrival of the Romans.

Passing from the court-yard to the entrance-hall of the Museum, a variety of objects strike the eye, which are well worthy of observation. On the right hand, the figure of a celebrated Eastern philosopher and saint is seen, and deserves attention, not only from the singularity of the sculpture, but as the representation of a man who, in all probability, existed prior to the age of Moses, or the earliest of Hebrew prophets and leaders. The statue itself bears marks of considerable antiquity; and as the Hindoos and Birmans are religiously and strictly bound never to alter the representation of their deities or prophets, it probably is the copy of one of earlier date. All the statues of this saint, which are known throughout Hindostan and the more eastern parts of Asia, bear close resemblance to each other. A brief account of his doctrines, which though now, as many others in the present age, are in some degree corrupted, may not be misplaced here.

This is the statue of the celebrated Gaudma, Godama, Boagh, or Budda. By these different names is he known in various parts of Hindostan, and particularly in the Birman empire. Godemana is the common appellation in India beyond the Ganges. It is said by the Bramins, that it signifies wise man or sage. It is supposed that this Godama or Gaudma, was originally an Indian Prince, deified by superstition. There exists an ancient treatise, which gives an account of the religious principles of Gaudma: it is entitled "Zorado." He is there said to have attained divinity at the age of thirty-five, and to have preached his law for forty-five years, and to have taught salvation to all human beings. According to this treatise, cited by Dr. Buchan, his doctrines and his laws chiefly consist in observing five commandments, and abstaining from ten sins. The five commandments are as follow:—First,—From the meanest insect, up to man, thou shalt kill no animal whatever. Second,—Thou shalt not steal. Third,—Thou shalt not violate the wife or concubine of another. Fourth,—Thou shalt tell nothing false. Fifth,—Thou shalt drink neither wine or anything that will intoxicate, nor eat opium or other intoxicating drugs. The person who keeps these com-

liable to poverty, or other misfortunes and calamities. The ten sins consist in the slaying of animals, in theft, falsehood, adultery and discord, harsh and indignant language, idle and superfluous talk, the coveting of your neighbour's goods, envy, and the desire of your neighbour's death or misfortune, and the following the doctrine of false gods. Every one who abstains from these sins shall successively increase in virtue through all his successive transmigrations through different worlds, and at length he will become worthy of beholding his Creator, and hearing his great voice. He will also be exempted from the four human miseries—poverty, old age, disease, and death. The good works required are the giving alms, and thoughtfully pronouncing three words. Whoever dies without abstinence and good works here prescribed, will certainly pass into one of the infernal states, and be doomed to certain transmigrations of evil. The priests of Gaudma are called, in the Burmese language, Rahans, and they have likewise bestowed on them the title of Tomora or Pamora, which is likewise applied to the images of the divinity, when he is represented—as he generally is—in a priestly habit. Gaudma commanded his images and relics to be constantly washed; the most celebrated of his temples have what is singular as resembling the Egyptian, a pyramidal form. His images are of all materials—of copper, gold, clay, silver, or alabaster. Many, like this in the Museum, are richly gilt, and adorned with paintings of flowers; they are of different sizes, but all in the same position, and bear resemblance to each other; and there is placidity and peace to be observed in the countenance of all. Among other objects of great veneration of the followers of Gaudma, are stones of large dimensions, one of which is seen with the figure in the Museum, on which the impression



of his foot is represented, covered with various hieroglyphics. The principal disciples or followers of Gaudma are considered as saints, and his figure is generally accompanied by many of them in priestly habits. Every true disciple prays before he goes to rest, and before he rises in the morning at the dawn of day. Friday is with them considered as unfortunate, and on it they undertake no business; they keep holy no particular day of the week, and make offerings on the phases of the moon, especially at the full and change; which may be considered as the Gaudma Sabbaths. This sect esteem the opinion of a Divine Being, who created the universe, to be highly impious; and, accordingly, his followers are, strictly speaking, atheists, as they suppose everything to arise from fate and necessity, and their gods are merely men who, by their virtues, acquire supreme happiness, and by their wisdom become entitled to impose law on all human beings.

In this Hall are several statues: that of Shakespeare, by Roubilliac, is sculptured with all the exquisite skill of that celebrated artist, but at the same time possesses all the faults of his school. The only authentic likeness which exists of that great master of the heart, which this statue is intended to represent, is his bust at Stratford-upon-Avon, to which this bears no resemblance. The countenance of the figure here has no trace of genius; it is rather that of a *bon vivant*, " a

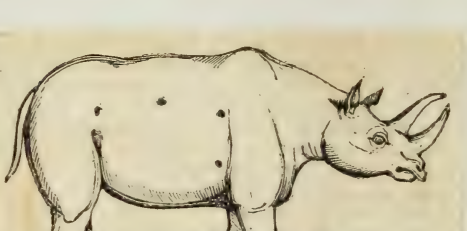
good fellow," it seems, joining in bacchanalian chorus. The figure is that of a stout, well-fed, dull gourmand, whose name and wit is forgotten after his departure, and not that of one who "will live through all time." The figure is fat, awkward, and puny. The habiliments are not those of the age in which he lived, but rather the aldermanic finery of the sculptor's day. The statue of Sir J. Banks, by Chantrey is finely executed; it shows the talent

of that artist; the character of the naturalist is drawn. The countenance is intellectual, and displays genius and research.

In the same hall, and close to the statue of Shakespeare, is that of the Honourable Anne Seymour Damer, of which the accompanying is a sketch. She was a lady of some fortune, and a liberal patroness of sculpture, for which she had no little taste, and is even reported to have herself wielded the chisel. The statue is

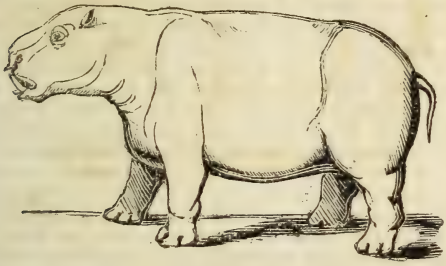
by Westmacott, but the miniature of the figure of "Father Thames," placed in her arms, is said to have been sculptured by herself. There are many persons who consider it very problematical, and are inclined to the opinion that Mr. Westmacott was its artist, and flattered the vanity of the lady by allowing it to be supposed that it was her production. As Mr. Westmacott, however, adheres to the opposite assertion, it is only just that due credence should be given to him. Be this doubt as it may, the work of art is one of some merit, and deserves considerably more notice than has hitherto been given to it.

In passing into the passage which leads to the Gallery of Sculptures, are some of the largest animals known. Among them are three of the genus Rhinoceros, of Southern Africa; they were obtained for the Museum from the Association for Exploring Central Africa. One of them, the Rhinoceros Kitloa, was before unknown. This animal, called the Rhinoceros unicornus, or "one horned," is of the class Mammalia; it is distinguished into two species by the number of its horns. That which has but one horn ranks among the largest of the quadrupeds; in size of body he is equal to the elephant; his height is, however, less, his legs being shorter; near the extremity of the nose he has a single horn, which is black and smooth. This is sometimes three feet and a half in length; it forms the peculiar



character of his race. He has a disproportionate upper lip, which hangs over the lower one, and terminates in a point; and the animal, by the assistance of the muscles, moves it with great dexterity in collecting his food and conveying it to his mouth. The nostrils are in a transverse direction; the ears are pointed and large; the skin is rough and nearly naked of covering, and, about the neck, is gathered into immense folds; a fold extends between the shoulders and fore legs, and another from the hinder part of the back to the thighs; the disproportionate size of the legs make the body, from its great bulk, hang low; the breadth of the feet do not exceed the size of the legs. This animal was known to the ancients; Pliny mentions it as an animal that, in the games given by Pompey, appeared in the circus at Rome, and was brought to combat with an elephant, against which it was an unequal foe. It is described by Aristotle, and is mentioned by the historian of Alexander as one of the strange animals met with in their march in India. It is a native of Bengal, Siam, and Cochinchina; also is found in China and in the islands of Java and Sumatra. It is a stupid, solitary animal —fond of shady forests adjoining rivers, and wet and marshy plains are his favourite haunts, unless attacked. Its temper is mild and inoffensive, but provoked, its rage is desperate and dangerous. It reaches the age of fifty or sixty years. During the first month, the young one is not larger than a dog; the horn is at first imperceptible, but increases by slow degrees. At the age of two years, he has hardly attained his height. His eyes are small, and his sight is dull; but he possesses the sense of smelling and hearing in great perfection. The principal food of this animal consists of thorns, and

prickly shrubs. The skin has been said to be impregnable to a bullet, but it is not the case. In taste, his flesh resembles pork.



Before the window on the left is a Hippopotamus. This animal, which derives its name from ιππος, a horse, ποταμος, a river, is called the river-horse or sea-cow; its head is of enormous size, and the mouth very large; the ears are pointed and small; the hair on the body thin, yet very strong, and the colour a dusky brown; his bulk is next to the elephant, being 17 feet in length, and the circumference of his body is sometimes 15; his legs about three feet; the girth of his head, which is converse, is near nine, and his mouth will open two feet wide; the teeth of the lower jaw are very long, and so hard, that they strike fire with steel —this probably gave rise to the report among the ancients, that the Hippopotamus vomited fire from his mouth. They inhabit the banks of the African rivers, from the Niger to the Bergruin, not many miles north of the Cape, near the rivers of which they formerly abounded, but have been nearly exterminated. From his great bulk, he moves unwillingly on land, also from the shortness of his legs; he easily takes the water, which he prefers, and sinks to the bottom, on which he walks; he cannot, however, long remain under it. A shy animal, he seeks it as much for concealment as comfort; in day-time, so fearful of being discovered, that he inhales the fresh air in places where he is hardly perceptible; if wounded, he attacks the boats with fury, and sinks them by biting large pieces from their sides. These animals are bold and danger-

ous in water, but, turned on land, their nature is mild, though a dangerous animal to meet. The way he is taken is by pit-falls, which are covered over. The Romans were acquainted with the Hippopotamus; the Emperor Augustus had one in his triumph over Cleopatra. He is the behemoth of Job, who admirably describes his manners, food, and haunts—"Behold now, behemoth, he eateth grass like an ox; now his strength is in his horns; his bones are strong, his teeth are pieces of brass; he lyeth under the shady trees in the covert of the rude fens; behold, he drinketh up a river; he can draw up Jordan into his mouth."

The British Museum Explained and Illustrated.

CHAPTER II.—THE LANDING-PLACE.

STILL lingering on the ground-floor, the eye rests upon a most ingeniously executed specimen of Hindoo sculpture, discovered on the banks of the sacred river Nerbudda, which winds through the southern portion of Hindostan to an extent of nearly seven hundred miles. It most probably formed a portion of some ancient temple, many having formerly been erected on the margin of the Nerbudda. This fragment suggests at first view a strong resemblance to the ancient sculpture of the Egyptians; nor will the affinity be less apparent, when a closer examination is made. In the edifices of both we find the prevalent use of colossal statues placed against piers or walls; sometimes closely attached to, or sculptured on them, and which may therefore be considered quite as much to form part of the general embellishment as specific objects of adoration. In both we find (as above) caryatid figures usurping the place of columns, and, indeed, figures human and animal, enter as much into the

have done in the Egyptian. Looked upon in the light of an interesting relic of antiquity, therefore, this fragment claims especial attention.

On ascending the first staircase, the landing presents to our view several interesting objects of attraction. Amongst these, the most prominent is the Llama, an animal bearing a strong resemblance to the Camel, and, like the Camel, used in its native country (South America) as a beast of burthen. Its utility to the natives may be inferred from the fact of this animal being able to supply them with both food and raiment; its flesh being equal to our mutton, and its hair or wool capable of being woven into cloth that a modern dandy need not be ashamed of wearing. The Llama can carry with ease a hundred pounds or more, and can travel at the rate of four or five leagues a day; but according to the testimony of a Spanish writer, one De Zarate, it would seem that their manners sadly require the intervention of some quadrupedal Lord Chesterfield, to whom the mission might be confidently entrusted. The following is Zarete's account of the matter:—"When Llamas are fatigued, they lie down, and the load must be taken off, for neither beating nor help will make them get up. Their weariness is manifested in a very disagreeable way, for when a man is on one of them, and the beast is pressed under such circumstances, it turns its head and immediately discharges its saliva, which has a bad odour, into its rider's face." Now if that be not the very height of animal impudence, we should like to know what is: but we must still progress.

Yonder, on the second landing-place, is a fine specimen of the Musk Ox, procured in the late arctic expedition from Melville Islands, and presented by the Lords of the Admiralty. It is common both to the

northern district of Siberia, and to the warmer region of Thibet and China, in which latter places it is procured with less trouble, and esteemed of more value. The musk, which is contained in a bag attached to the abdomen of the male musk animal, is solid, in grains of different sizes, and of a strong, acrid, disagreeable flavour. A single grain of musk has been known to constantly fill the air of one apartment with a sensible impregnation for fifty years, without its weight being perceptibly diminished. How musk possesses such extraordinary powers of scent, is not, indeed, very accurately ascertained; but the best chemical analysts have supposed it to proceed from a process of putrefaction going on at the time the odour is emitted.

In juxta-position with the Musk Ox we find the Polar Bear—a magnificent animal, brought home by Captain (now Sir John) Ross, from the Melville Islands, in his first voyage to the North Pole in the year 1818. This is a fair sample of the Ursine race generally, and may be looked upon as giving a tolerable idea of their usual dimensions. They abound in Nova Zembla, Greenland, and the coasts of Baffin's and Hudson's Bay, but none have ever yet been seen on the shores of the White Sea. Their diet chiefly consists of the floating carcases of whales and other marine animals; but that the Polar Bear can subsist equally well on vege-

table diet, was proved in the case of two which thrived for years in the French menagerie, without being permitted to touch animal food. The individual kept in the Tower during the reign of Henry III. seems to have been indulged in food more congenial to their habits, for there are two of the king's writs extant, in choice Latin, directing the sheriffs of London to furnish fourpence a-day "for our white bear in our Tower of London and his keeper," and to provide a muzzle and iron chain to hold him when out of the water, and a long and strong rope to hold him when he is fishing in the Thames. This provision for animals by "act of Parliament" is a subject that has escaped the attention of our modern legislators, though we fear acts as arbitrary and for as little purpose are to be found receiving the royal assent every day.

Over the Musk Ox, we see the Striped Antelope of Pennant, from the Cape of Good Hope, an animal whose grace and agility have passed into proverbs. Generally speaking antelopes are gregarious, and their vision and smell are so acute as to compel the hunter to use the greatest caution and circumspection to bring them within range of the gun. The names, indeed, by which the animals themselves have been distinguished in all languages, have direct reference to this greatness of sight, and to the brilliancy of their large black eyes, which form their most conspicuous feature. But here on the ase of the Polar Bear we find the Elk, a species of deer, iefly found in North America, and a noble animal it ks! There is, or was lately, one in the Zoological dens, Regent's Park, but this is deemed in size

and appearance infinitely superior. Their flesh is good but coarse; eating like tough venison, and the tongue and nose are often to be procured at the tables of the great, where they are esteemed delicacies. They feed on the young leaves and branches of trees, and may be considered harmless animals enough unless provoked, and then the hair on the back of the Elk, bristling up like the mane of a lion, gives him a wild and frightful appearance. An Elk-chase forms a scene of the most animated description. The picturesque garb of the hunters, the sterile tracks and prairies through which they follow their prey, the dangers of the morass and the pitfall, and above all the glare of the torches shedding a red unearthly light over the wild country traversed in the depth of night, all combine to render an Elk-chase one of the most exciting scenes that the imagination can picture, and which participation in its excitement alone can appreciate.

Here are a few objects of a different nature, which, however, must not be permitted to pass unnoticed. They divide the animals above mentioned. The first is the trunk of an arborescent fern, brought from the mountains to the eastward of Silhet in Bengal, and is upwards of forty-five feet in height. By its side is placed a transverse section of another arborescent fern, and near it is a species of palm, growing in South America. But by far the most conspicuous objects on the upper landing-place are a male and female Giraffe, or cameleopard, from South Africa, and another giraffe presented by the Trustees of the Hunterian Collection, and which last was the first ever seen in this country. The groupe is completed by a young Indian Elephant and a Malay Tapir, which, as we shall hereafter again have to speak of these animals, may remain without farther description for a few chapters at least. These terminate the animal curiosities of the first landing; and here we would entreat the visitor to pause awhile. Let him remember that he is on the eve of witnessing all the most striking objects that nature and art can furnish, —that he is on the threshold of a spot where human enterprise has brought from every clime and every country something to attract the eye and interest the mind.

Where, from the rudest indications of barbaric skill on the one hand, to the highest manifestations of civilized ingenuity on the other, man has brought into action those glorious attributes with which his Creator has endowed him, and has thus established his claim to the title of "Creation's Lord." Here the tenants of the forest and the denizens of the plain have alike found a resting-place; here the peaceable and the ferocious remain in quiet contact. For this has Nature surrendered her stores, Art exhausted its ingenuity, Enterprise ransacked the treasures of the earth, Discovery lent its aid to diversify the scene, and Antiquity displayed its choicest relics even though embedded in the rust of ages. Let him remember to prize—to appreciate—the information he will gain, and, like a careful economist, preserve the pearls of wisdom collected in his youth, to be the pride and ornament of his old age.

CHAPTER III.—THE NEW QUADRANGLE AND THE FIRST ROOM.

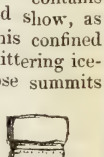
The necessary alterations that have from time to time been made in the Museum, have also forced upon the trustees the necessity of improving the exterior, and for the better attainment of this object, a new entrance and more noble quadrangle has been constructed and nearly completed, at the back of the one now standing of which we have previously given an illustration. The unfinished state in which it at present remains, through the parsimony of the late government in withholding the funds, renders any attempt at graphic or particular description impossible; but as doubtless some years will still elapse before the public are honoured with a view of it, this is the less necessary. When sufficient money is forthcoming to enable those who are employed to proceed with the works, the old entrance will be removed, and this appear in its stead, the annexed woodcut giving a very faithful depiction of the new quadrangle as far as it has yet been finished. The edifice was originally projected from the designs of Mr. R. Smirke, and savours chiefly of the Ionic order. The façade is ornamented in the centre with a pedimented portico of six columns, and has a single line of square windows with pilasters between those on either side of the portico. The exterior of the west wing is also decorated with a portico, but has no pilasters; and the east wing, as far as it has been completed, presents a corresponding appearance. At the north-east and north-west angles are spacious stone staircases, which appear severally intended to serve as separate places of ingress and egress, a plan which, however it may detract from the majestic aspect of the building, will certainly materially increase the comfort of the visitors, inasmuch as no confusion amongst them can then possibly arise.

W. H. BARCLAY

But, however, it is with the first room that our business at present lies; and here we find many objects to arrest our attention. The ceiling of this apartment is ornamented in the same style as that of the staircase, and is, indeed, a continuation of the same story, both representing the fable of Phaeton borrowing the Horses of the Sun. The painter was Charles de Rosse, who had the reputation of being one of the best colourists of the French school.

In the first case, which chiefly contains the artificial curiosities of uncivilized tribes and nations, we find some singular Esquimaux dresses, brought home by Captain Sir Edward Parry, on his return from the arctic expedition in 1822. It is to this enterprising gentleman, indeed, that we are indebted for various other articles in this collection: amongst which we find a whalebone net used by the Esquimaux to lay under their beds, to protect them from the snow; a wooden bowl, remarkable as being fashioned without the aid of iron tools; a cup and spoon, made out of the horns of the musk ox; some arms, of not very formidable appearance; and a culinary vessel and lamp, hewn out of solid stone. But the most interesting object here, as manifesting the early application of scientific principles amongst a nation scarcely one remove from barbarism, is that of a pair of eye-shades, formed of bone, which is the simple yet effective instrument employed by the Esquimaux to defend their eyes from the too intense light reflected by the snow. As may be perceived, they have a small narrow aperture in the centre, and are capable of being fixed near the eyes by a thong, or strip of skin, passing round the head; so that, when they are worn, no light can possibly enter the pupil of either eye, excepting through the small openings of these rude yet curiously constructed spectacles. Above the case is placed a sledge brought from Baffin's Bay by Captain Parry.

We now come to what has been, from time immemorial, as great an object of attention amongst barbarians, as amongst the more civilized inhabitants of this sublunary world—we allude to the article of dress. Let not the unsophisticated reader delude himself into the belief, that the fopperies of dandyism are confined to the regions west of Temple Bar. The snow hut of the Esquimaux contains as many evidences of the desire for outward show, as the gayest saloon in May Fair. Nor is this confined solely to the fairer sex. Hemmed in by glittering icebergs, surrounded by mountains, upon whose summits winter sits throned in perpetual snow, diademed with icicles, the Esquimaux is still to be seen wending his way in a garment which, for the singularity and oddity of its appearance, Stultz might throw down his shears in absolute vexation, at not being able to equal. But it is not to the coat alone we should confine our attention; here is a boot, worthy of Hoby, that has been fashioned from deer-skin, and ornamented with a leathern fringe, to gratify the vanity of the wearer. Both evince a peculiar aptitude to display the articles of dress to the greatest advantage.



In the second case we find similar articles of Esquimaux apparel, of which the annexed illustrations will have given an idea, and a landing-whalebone net, brought from Kotzebue Sound; a pair of boots belonging to a female, from Cape Thompson; a dart-thrower from Point Barrow; and, in particular, a richly-carved paddle, from the Island of Tahiti; or, as it has been more improperly, though commonly called, Otaheite. This paddle is a piece of

fully finished, and was doubtless once the property of one of the Island chiefs. The ease and celerity with which they guide themselves over the wide expanse of waters by the simple use of paddles of this construction is most remarkable, and excites wonder and admiration in the breasts of even the most civilized.

The third case presents us with various specimens of cloth manufactured from the bark of the paper mulberry tree, in the Sandwich Islands, some of them with stamped patterns, executed by the islanders themselves. Approximating thereunto, is a sail made from the intestines of the Walrus; and, near that, are two husks of the Walrus itself. Here, also, are some bows and arrows tipped with bone, from California; and a small harpoon, with a moveable tip, adapted for spearing fish.

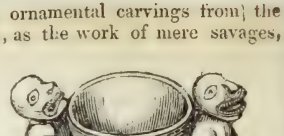
Passing the fourth case, which contains chiefly boots remarkable for having divisions for the toes like gloves (probably on account of the power it would afford the wearer of taking up anything by his feet) we arrive at case the fifth, where a quiver formed of palm-leaves, and containing small poisoned arrows, challenges our attention. These weapons were brought by Lieutenant Maw, R.N., from South America, where they are used by the Indians, who dwell on the banks of the great river Maranon and its branches. Their points have been dipped in the Worari poison, which causes death to ensue almost instantaneously, and, as it is said, without a pang or struggle. We are informed by Dr. Hancock, who visited South America some ten years since, that the Worari is obtained from the Mavacuri, a plant resembling a gourd, and bearing a fruit the size and shape of a large orange, enclosed in a hard shell, which is generally used to hold the poison when prepared. The small arrows, infected with this poison, are much employed by the Indians to kill birds, monkeys, and, strange to say, those animals that they destroy for food. They are propelled through a small hollow reed by the breath; and, it is alleged that there is not any certain antidote to the effects of this pernicious juice, albeit, salt and sugar are often employed for that purpose, and sometimes with success.

Most of the objects in the next division speaking for themselves, we shall pass over them to take cognizance of the boat over these cases, which was brought by Captain Beechey from Behring's Straits. It is a Green-

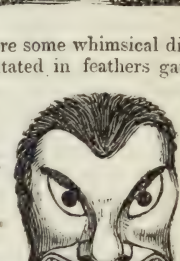
lander's *kajak* or fishing-boat, and is intended only for a single person. A skin covering is carefully attached to the gunwale of the boat, with an aperture in the middle, through which the adventurous navigator introduces his body, and, sitting down, confines the skin with a band securely round his waist. In this way he is almost ready to bid defiance to any accident, for should his light skiff be overset, no water can enter; and as it remains buoyant, a dexterous stroke of the paddle will instantly right it, and he can proceed on the voyage.

The ninth case introduces us to vessels displaying great variety of form, as the bottle with the singularly distorted figure of a dwarf attached to it on the first shelf; and the quadruple vessel with the dwarf figure belonging to it on the second, will amply testify. These were taken from the tombs of the aboriginal Peruvians; and above them are ranged some Mexican antiquities that were purchased at the sale of the Mexican Museum, formed by Mr. Bullock some years ago. They chiefly consist of small statues formed of various stones, and of rude workmanship. In the remaining cases are articles chiefly from the western coast of North America and the South Sea. Here is a breastplate constructed in a most remarkable manner, with mother-of-pearl and scales of shells, and trimmed with feathers, forming part of an Otaheitan warrior's dress. An inspection will well repay the spectator, and prove the *vraisemblance* of our illustration.

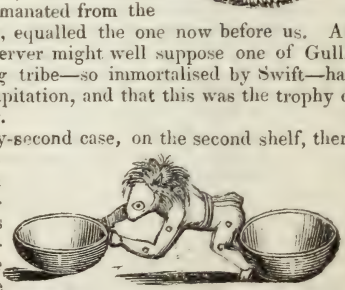
Here, too, are some ornamental carvings from the Friendly Islands, which, as the work of mere savages, are worthy of notice. The carving in all is most ingeniously executed. They are used to contain *cava*, an exhilirating liquor, prepared in a way which we will not trust ourselves to describe.



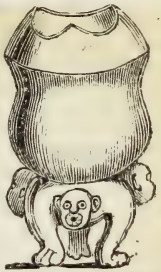
In cases nineteen and twenty are some whimsical distortions of the human form, imitated in feathers gaudily tinted. The grotesque headpiece, here given, will, with its strangely exaggerated features, exhibit a tolerable idea of the skill possessed by the natives of the Sandwich Islands, but whether they have been intended for idols, or are merely "the works of art" belonging to that country, cannot be distinctly ascertained. If the latter supposition be correct, our Gilrays and Cruikshanks may indeed "hide their diminished heads," as no caricature that ever emanated from the pencil of either, equalled the one now before us. An uninformed observer might well suppose one of Gulliver's *Brobdignag* tribe—so immortalised by Swift—had undergone decapitation, and that this was the trophy of the executioner.



In the twenty-second case, on the second shelf, there are some peculiar wooden bowls, with fantastic figures as ornamental supporters. These are from the



some savage Chantrey or Baillie. A collection of these gathered together at an Indian banquet must present a most extraordinary picture. They seem to evince, by the rudest indications, the dawning of the sculptor's art; displaying itself in the grotesque, rather than in the sublime and beautiful. These carvings, ridiculous as they may appear—absurd as they are, would form most important illustrations to a history of human nature, revealing the first bent of the savage and untutored mind, and, like experience, serving as the beacon light attached to the stern of Time's vessel, to scatter light over the dark track of ages through which we have noiselessly sped.



Ranged along the walls are weapons and offensive arms of every description. It is somewhat strange that, in all uncivilized countries when first discovered, the spirit of aggression seems uppermost, the principal attention and skill being displayed in articles of destruction, rather than those of a more useful class. This will be sufficiently apparent on the most cursory glance being bestowed on the objects; but, upon a closer examination, the truth of this remark becomes manifest.

The last, but not by any means least, object of curiosity in this room is the original manuscript of the Great Charter (Magna Charta) granted by King John to his subjects at Runnymede, June 15, 1215. The authentic signature of the royal granter is attached; but, as the art of penmanship had not made such progress in those days as it has in ours, we can feel but little surprise at the autograph being illegible. It was made out in order to be lodged in the archives of some great monastery or public office. Another of the originals of this celebrated Charter, corresponding with the one before us, is preserved in the cathedral library at Salisbury. This we have here was procured by Sir Robert Cotton in the reign of James I., when he was accumulating his great collection of manuscripts, to

CHAP. IV.—THE MAMMALIA SALOON.

The reader, as well as the visitor, must now make a sudden progression into the new apartments to which the animals, formerly in the old rooms, have been removed. Ascending the flight of steps leading to the *Mammalia Saloon*, forming part of what is at present styled the Eastern Zoological Gallery, we find ourselves in a wide and spacious apartment, the cases in which are for the most part filled with specimens of the Simian tribe. These, all falling under the general title of *mammalia*, cannot fail to be regarded with peculiar interest. It is scarcely necessary to remind the reader that quadrupeds supply us with the most precious of earthly gifts. The ample coverings of our fleecy flocks possess infinitely more value than the brightest gem that ever flashed lustre from an eastern diadem. Without the horse, the ox, the sheep, and the dog, our present condition would be the most wretched that can be imagined; our political, social, and commercial relations would undergo an overwhelming revolution. Deprived of his rein-deer how would the Laplander support his "sleepless summer of long night" or his snow-enshrouded winter? Without the enduring camel the desert sands of Africa, if not lifeless solitudes would at least be impassable to the human race, and for all commercial purposes as useless as an ocean without ships. Let it not therefore be considered we are devoting too great a space to the consideration of these objects, for although the race of monkeys may not exactly challenge the respectful attention due to the more noble orders of animals, they demand, from their singular similarity in conformation to the human race an especial paper devoted to themselves.

The animals of this very varied and extensive order, so familiarly known, inhabit the warmer regions of Asia, Africa, and America. A single species remain as a European representative on the rock of Gibraltar, either by descent as an indigenous animal, or by accidental importation from the opposing coast of Barbary, where it is extremely frequent. Their true and natural

forests are filled with the animal world, courting their grateful shades, silent and resting; and it is only in some deep glade "afraid to glitter in the noontide beams," that the screams of an awakened parrot or the gambols of some frolicsome monkey disturb the universal solitude. The food of this family may be called almost entirely vegetable. The accounts of their love for animal food, and relish for that of human beings, as related by several writers, must be placed amongst those fictions of imagination which have too often been mistaken for the records of truth. A taste for saccharine repasts seems, however, to be their distinguishing characteristic;

> "Destructive on the upland sugar groves
> The monkey nation preys; from rocky heights,
> In silent parties, they descend by night,
> And, posting watchful sentinels, to warn
> When hostile steps approach; with gambols, they
> Pour o'er the cane-grove. Luckless he to whom
> That grove belongs."

It is worthy of remark, that apes and monkeys occupy the same line on the two continents, and there live as colonies; each species in its respective haunt and district of forest, without disturbance or confusion, and without invading the property of one another. The parrots and their mischievous companions jostle each other under the same foliage, as if nature had intended to bring together the only quadrupeds which resemble man, and the bird which most readily imitates his voice. As we gaze on the cases before us, fancy seems to whirl us at once to a foreign clime. Who would not wish to contemplate, in the ancient forests of America, those troops of animals flitting from branch to branch—now swinging with their prehensile tails, and anon assuming a thousand grotesque attitudes; and whilst they leap, spring, and mutter, as if they meditated some important enterprise, flocks of parrots and parroquets alight among them, chattering in the branches, and tossing about their heads, which glitter and sparkle in the rays of a dazzling sun.

But it is time that we turned our attention to the specimen before us. In case one, we find a miscellaneous collection of monkeys, brought from various portions of the globe; but as a description of one will serve as a description of the whole class, we shall content ourselves with confining our attention to the specimen chosen by our artist. This is the black Ourang, a native of Africa, and particularly the Guinea coast and Angola; they are said to live in vast troops, and to be dangerous in their attacks upon persons travelling alone in the forests where they are to be found. They are covered with shining black hair, longest on the back and shoulders. A writer of reputed veracity states, that an African ourang once carried off a young negro, who lived during an entire season in the society of these animals, and, on his return, reported that they had never injured him, but, on the contrary, seemed greatly delighted with his company; and that females, especially, evinced a great partiality for him, and not only brought him abundance of nuts and wild fruits, but actually defended him in the most careful and courageous manner from the attacks of serpents and beasts of prey. We must not omit to state that the form of the ourang's body and limbs more approaches the human than that of any other animal, but it is distinguished from man by greater depression of the forehead and inferiority in the relative volume of the brain.

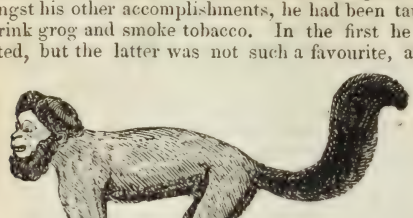
Passing onwards we observe many that have what are called prehensile tails, with which they lay hold of branches, and thus in climbing have all the advantages of a fifth arm. It is a circumstance calling for notice, that the monkeys which are natives of America differ from those found in the other quarters of the globe, in having longer tails, no pouches in their cheeks, and the

Our next illustration, from case three, displays the singular position adopted by the *Entellus* monkey when in the act of resting on its hip. It is a native of India and Bengal. If taken at an early age they become familiar and tame; but being peculiarly susceptible of cold are scarcely ever to be met with in our modern menageries.

In case nine we meet with a curious specimen of the Hoolock, chiefly found in British India. Their food in the wild state consists for the most part of fruits, common only to the jungle in this district of country; and they are particularly fond

of the seeds and fruits of that sacred tree of India, called the peepul tree. They are easily tamed, and show no disposition to fight, unless provoked. They

Case eighteen presents us with several beautiful varieties, amongst which the bearded ape stands conspicuous. Here, also, in the vicinity, may be remarked the rib-nosed baboon, which was once a great attraction at Exeter-Change. Whilst there he was exceedingly docile to his keepers, though easily exasperated by strangers; and amongst his other accomplishments, he had been taught to drink grog and smoke tobacco. In the first he delighted, but the latter was not such a favourite, and a



bribe of gin-and-water was generally promised before its performance. His cage was furnished with a small, but strong arm-chair, into which, when ordered, he would seat himself with great gravity, and await further orders. All his manœuvres were performed with great slowness and composure. His keeper having lighted his pipe, presented it to him, when he usually inspected it minutely, sometimes feeling it with his finger, as if to know it was lighted. Then putting the waxed end into his mouth, and holding a newspaper before his

eyes, he alternately began to smoke and read with all the solemnity of an elderly gentleman immersed in unravelling the tangled web of political opinions.

Case twenty is a repository for many of the more rare kinds, amongst which the one annexed will be strikingly conspicuous. It is a native of the wilds of South America, and has habits and peculiarities similar to the tribes we have already described. In fact, the necessity we are under of avoiding anything approaching to tediousness of description, requires our explanatory comments to be less copious than perhaps many of them may appear to require; but it will soon be manifest, that such alike are the "manners and customs" of the Simian species generally, that what is mentioned with reference to one may be predicated of nearly all the rest.

CHAPTER V.—THE EASTERN ZOOLOGICAL GALLERY.—ORNITHOLOGY.

Proceeding from the history of quadrupeds to inquire into that of the feathered race, which constitutes the second great class in the animal kingdom, and forms the chief object of interest in this gallery, we find nature still possessing the same vivifying power, though here she seems more prolific and more diversified in her operations. If, from the ministry of quadrupeds, man derives assistance in maintaining his influence over the soil, it is to these denizens of the air that he is indebted for many of his pleasures. By the richness and brilliancy of their colours, the melody of their voices, the beauty and elegance of their forms, they charm the eye of the beholder, soothe his ear, and captivate his imagination. By these qualities they invariably afford him pleasure; whether he contemplate the melodious grove, the screaming precipice, or the noisy forest; by these they cheer his solitude, enliven his rambles, and animate whilst they adorn the scenes of nature. We will not attempt to discuss the subject of the universal law of migration, further than observing, that its object seems the preservation of those birds who would be deprived of their natural food were they to remain stationary in any given locality. Thus the swallow, the cuckow, the nightingale, many species of soft-billed warblers and others, visit us in spring from the south, and leave us on the approach of winter; whilst the fieldfare, the redwing, the woodcock, and various aquatic birds, find a winter asylum with us, and depart again in spring, to make room for a new succession of visitors. In the case of the lark and the thrush, which also visit us in great numbers, the performance of flight across the German Ocean does not much surprise us; but when we examine this little bird, which is by no means adapted for long aerial progression, we are at a loss to perceive how the migration could have been performed. So much, however, might be written on this subject, and so impracticable has it been found to give more than a very condensed account of even the birds themselves, that we may be readily excused if we omit any detail upon these points; therefore, turning at once to the cases on our

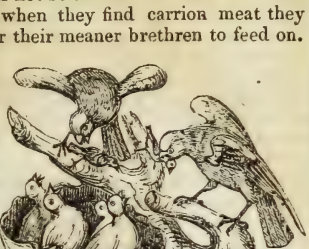
or high places, and have their young hatched blind and nearly naked, so that it is necessary for a time they should be fed by their parents and remain in the nest. These may truly be regarded as the giants of the feathered race. The first family is that of the condors, chiefly inhabitants of America; as the great vulture of the Andes and the Californian vulture, both of which are not true vultures, but properly condors. Birds belonging to these species have been peculiarly noticed by travellers on account of the great heights to which they soar in the air. A recent American writer says that he has repeatedly seen the condor sailing high above the loftiest of the snowy Corderillas, at an elevation of 16,000 feet above the level of the ocean, with no apparent motion of the wings, and yet in an air so attenuated, that where he himself was stationed at thousands of feet below, the rarity of the atmosphere rendered all efforts painful to those not long accustomed to the light medium that there prevails. The muscles in the wings of the condor are so powerful that a blow from one of them has destroyed life.

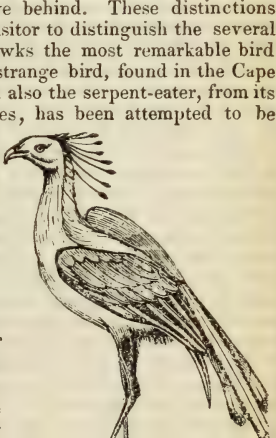
Pre-eminent for size and strength the vultures exceed all other birds whose powers of wing are adequate to sustain continued flight. They are a race peculiar to hot climates, and their food consists of putrid animal substances, for a removal of which (where indeed a quick removal is much called for) they seem expressly appointed. Their flight is wonderfully rapid and graceful, and they are led by some faculty, not yet fully understood, but most probably by an exceedingly acute sense of smell, from astonishing distances, and at an elevation in the atmosphere, beyond the reach of human sight, to their fœtid repast. In a tribe of birds thus characterised, the Griffon Vulture, which is before us, is one of the most conspicuous. The accompanying illustration exhibits the manner in which the Golden Eagle devours its prey; this magnificent specimen is deposited doubtless in an adjoining case for the purpose of showing

the rapacity manifested by all birds of this class in satisfying their hunger. But to return to the Griffon Vulture.

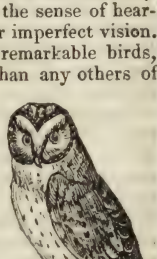
This bird, like the rest of its family, except when pressed by the utmost necessity, never preys on living animals, but prefers carrion and putrid substances; and when fed to repletion is easily made captive. The male, as usual with other rapacious birds, is smaller than the female. The Bearded Vulture, or *Lœmmer-geyer*, which resembles the bird depicted above, is the most ferocious of this class, pouncing with impetuosity on animals exceeding itself in size; hence the young chamois, the wild goat, the mountain hare, and various species of birds, find in the *Lœmmer-geyer* a most formidable and ferocious enemy. Having seized its prey, this Bearded Vulture devours it upon the spot, the straight form of their talons disabling them from carrying it to a distance. The *Lœmmer-geyer* refuses flesh in a state of putrefaction unless sharply pressed by hunger; hence Nature has limited this species as to numbers, while, on the other hand, to the vultures who are destined to clear the earth of animal matter in a state of decomposition, she has given an almost illimitable increase. This is but one amongst a thousand evidences of the protection of an unseen yet all-seeing Providence. The family of Falcons (*Falconidæ*) which occupy the next cases, have their heads covered with feathers and the eyebrows prominent, giving the eye the appearance of being deeply set in the head, and imparting a character to these birds very different from that of the vultures

food so much as the flesh of animals they themselves have killed. They will not be satisfied without the blood of their victims, and when they find carrion meat they leave it in disgust for their meaner brethren to feed on. This disposition is accompanied by a remarkable conformation of the beak, which in these birds has a deep notch near its roof or origin, thus enabling them, as here shown, to wound and tear their prey with greater facility. The other varieties here are the Ignoble Falcons with simple, and the Hawks with rather longitudinal nostrils, whilst the honey-buzzard, osprey and kites, have an oblique slit covered with a valve behind. These distinctions will readily enable the visitor to distinguish the several kinds. Amongst the Hawks the most remarkable bird is the Secretary. This strange bird, found in the Cape of Good Hope, and called also the serpent-eater, from its preying on those reptiles, has been attempted to be naturalised by the French at Martinique, for the purpose of destroying the lance-headed serpent, with which that island abounds, but we have not heard if the attempt was successful or not. Here, too, are the Eagles, (*Aquila*) to describe the different varieties of which a volume might be devoted. Formed by Nature for braving the severest cold, feeding





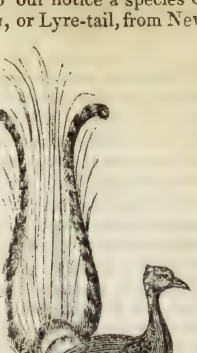
the speed of the elements themselves ; unawed by anything but man ; and from the etherial heights to which the eagle soars, looking abroad at one glance on an immeasurable expanse of forests, fields, lakes, and ocean, deep below him ; he appears indifferent to the little localities of change of seasons, and can pass at will from summer to winter, dashing upwards from his eyrie in the mountain to that abode of eternal cold the higher regions of the atmosphere, and again descend to the torrid or arctic regions of the earth. We now approach the numerous and most solemn family of the owls (*Strigidæ*); most of these are remarkable for the radiated circles of feathers surrounding their eyes, and for their large ears, which as they hunt in the dark may enable them to discover their prey by the sense of hearing when not within the range of their imperfect vision. Whilst the owls are altogether most remarkable birds, the horned owls are even more so than any others of this winged race. They are spread over the whole of Europe, and appear to be everywhere stationary ; at least such is the case in our own island, where they inhabit barns, ruins, church-towers, and hollow trees, remaining concealed all day, but issuing at the approach of evening, when they prowl on light and noiseless wings, in search of their prey, night being the time when this genus exert their powers and display their destructive energies. Although mice form the principal part of their subsistence, it is nevertheless certain that they occasionally prey on young birds, rats, and leverets; and instances have been known of their even committing serious havoc amongst the finny tribe.



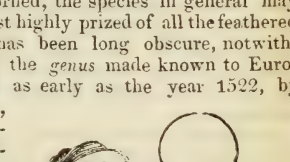
That magnificent bird, which we see yonder, in case forty, belongs to the genus Trogon, and is well worthy of the adjunct, " Resplendent," which has been appended to it. Their feet are often feathered almost to the toes, and their soft, full, lax plumage, and lengthened tail,

bestow upon the species a peculiar aspect. These birds abound in South America, where they conceal themselves in the central solitudes of umbrageous forests, and, except during the breeding season, dwell insulated and alone. They will sit motionless for half a summer's day, upon a withered branch, and, if not concealed by some accidental intervening mass of foliage, they fall an easy prey to the keen-eyed hunter, who eagerly searches for these birds, not less remarkable for the delicacy of their flesh than their beauty of plumage. During the morning and evening hours they become more active, venturing at these times into the open parts of the forest, and, taking a shady station, dart upon winged insects, particularly beetles. At other times they feed upon fruits, at which they also invariably dart, precisely as if they were insects capable of escaping. It has been remarked that the skins of these birds are of so delicate a texture as to be with difficulty preserved in a natural or complete condition. It is probable that this is the cause why here they assume a heavy, shapeless aspect, redeemed, it is true, by the gorgeous colours and metallic splendour of their plumage. The one our artist has above represented is the most magnificent of its tribe, being one of which, in its natural state, no delineation nor description can convey an adequate idea. The greater proportion of the plumage is apparently composed of burnished gold. The head, as will be perceived, is ornamented with a brilliant crest of decomposed barbs, the wing-coverts falling in flakes of golden green over the deep purplish black of the primary and secondary quill feathers; the rich carmine of the lower parts presenting a warmth and depth of effect which no Venetian painter ever equalled, whilst the long waving of the tail, extending

Case forty-eight introduces to our notice a species of *Menura*, entitled *Menura Superba*, or Lyre-tail, from New Holland. It is characterised, as its name implies, by the great extension and peculiar shape of its tail feathers. It is equal in size to the pheasant, and the general plumage is brown. The tale of the female is of the ordinary structure, and displays but little of the attractive powers of the male. The Lyre-tail evinces a peculiar attachment to rocky districts, and in Australia it is only there to be found. Its history, however, is still obscure, and its anatomical structure has, we believe, not yet been fully investigated. In our next number we shall enter at large into the anatomical peculiarities of birds in general. The specimens we have above given will be sufficiently corroborative of the munificence of our intention. The space to which we are confined renders it impracticable—not to say impossible—to discourse as fully as we could wish of these specimens, but in our next we shall strive to remedy the difficulty, by devoting a larger space to their consideration.



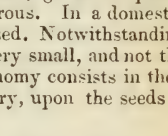
Pursuing our examination of the cases to the left, we find in case sixty-four a magnificent specimen of the Bird of Paradise, so noted during our early intercourse with Eastern countries. The bill is straight, compressed, rather strong, and unnotched; the nostrils being surrounded by a close tissue of feathers of a velvet texture, sometimes resplendent with metallic lustre. These birds are natives of New Guinea, and in consequence of the delicately graceful structure of their plumage, and the pure and beautifully blended colours by which they are adorned, the species in general may be regarded as the most highly prized of all the feathered race. Their history has been long obscure, notwithstanding the first of the *genus* made known to Europeans was imported as early as the year 1522, by one Antony Pigafetta, who accompanied Magellan in his voyage round the world. Pigafetta, it appears, was satisfied from the first by ocular demonstration, that this bird had legs, though the natives cut them off as parts of no importance. In consequence, however, of this prevailing, if not universal mutilation, a notion soon became prevalent in Europe that the bird was naturally destitute of these common-place but very useful organs, and that consequently it floated for ever in the air, winnowing with loving wings the gentle breezes, or at times suspending itself for a few brief moments from some lofty sun-illumined tree by the two peculiarly lengthened filaments with which it is adorned. In accordance with this belief, it was of course consistent to suppose that whatever individuals were obtained "on this dim spot, which men call earth," they had fallen from their aerial heights immediately before their dissolution. Even Aldrovandus, the most zealous naturalist of his age, having himself



only seen such specimens as had been mutilated in the usual manner, accuses Pigafetta of audacious falsehood in asserting that the bird was naturally furnished with legs and feet, and the great Scaliger, himself a naturalist of no mean order, gave equal credit to this foolish fancy. The true residence of these birds seems to be Papua, or New Guinea, whence they make occasional excursions to some smaller neighbouring islands. They fly in flocks of about thirty or forty, led, it is alleged, by a single bird which the natives call their king, but which is said to be of a different species. It is further pretended that when this bird settles, the whole flight settle also, in consequence of which they sometimes perish, being unable to rise again owing to the peculiar structure of their wings. They also fly always against the wind, lest their flowing plumage should be discomposed. While flying they make a noise like starlings, but their common cry rather resembles that of a raven, and is very audible in windy weather, when they dread the chance of being thrown upon the ground. In the Aru Islands they are seen to perch on lofty trees, and are variously captured by the inhabitants with bird-lime, snares, and blunted arrows. Though many are taken alive, they are always killed immediately, embowelled, the feet cut off, the plumed skins fumigated with sulphur, and then dried for sale. With respect to their food we have little certain information from the older authors, some of whom assert they prey on small birds—a supposition which Dr. Shaw, in his "General Zoology," inclines to think is favoured by their strength of bill and legs, and the vigour with which they defend themselves. They are also said to feed on fruits and berries, and Linnæus says, that they devour the larger butterflies—a diversity of opinion which will rather bewilder than enlighten the notions of a spectator.

We now pass the Kingfishers, remarkable chiefly for their length of bill and splendour of plumage. The *Alcedo Ispida* (our common kingfisher) is the only species which we find in Europe, and it yields to few of its brethren in lustrous beauty. It is one of the rarest, and certainly the handsomest, of all our resident species. It haunts the banks of lakes and rivers, building in willows near their margin, and preys chiefly on small fish, on which it darts with the rapidity of an arrow, plunging its little gem-like body for one flashing moment into the chrystal and willow-overhung stream, and re-appearing the next with its prey secured.

We now arrive at case seventy-two, in which a bird with a gigantic beak arrests our attention. This is the Indian Horn-bill depicted in the annexed illustration. Its body exceeds that of the largest raven, but is very lean and incompact. It is believed to feed chiefly on fruits, although it will seize upon reptiles when pressed by hunger. Its freedom from any offensive smell, and the excellence of its flesh, which is much esteemed as an article of food, go far to prove that its habits are chiefly frugivorous. In a domestic state it will eat meat raw or dressed. Notwithstanding the size of the beak, the tongue is very small, and not the least singular feature in their economy consists in their feeding greedily and without injury, upon the seeds of the *nux vomica*. Subjoined is a skeleton of the beak, interesting as an object of natural history, chiefly for the better understanding and appreciation of the enormous weight this bird has to carry. These bills, or beaks, are toothed along the edges, and are generally surmounted by an additional horny structure, which bestows on them a very striking and peculiar physiognomy. These bony excrescences vary considerably with the age of the bird, being scarcely perceptible in the young. When flying, their unwieldy beaks and lengthened tails cause them to exhibit a most singular and awkward aspect; indeed their appearance altogether is exceedingly uncouth. Yonder is the Woodpecker, a small but attractive bird, whose curious propensities for "tapping the hollow-tree bough" will not suffer us to



let it pass without a word. They are shy and solitary birds, and are chiefly employed in tapping decayed trunks in search of insects. Buffon, that always eloquent, but frequently erroneous, and sometimes inconsistent Frenchman, has drawn a melancholy picture of the miseries of a woodpecker's life. According to his views, nature appears to have condemned it to incessant toil, for while other species freely employ their courage or address, and either glide along on fearless rapid wings, or lurk insidiously in closer ambush, the woodpecker is constrained to drag on a miserable existence, in boring through the scaly bark and tough unyielding fibres of the hardest trees. Necessity admits no intermission of its labours—no interval of sweet repose. Not even the darkness of the night, nor sleep—that "soft restorer" who throws her balmy mantle over such a mass of human misery—brings any solace here, for the nocturnal hours are spent in the same constrained and painful posture as are those of day. It never shares in the joyous sports of the other inhabitants of the woods, and so far from joining in their glad responses, it rather deepens the natural sadness of the forest by its wild and melancholy cries. So Buffon thinks and writes; but what is all this but the most fantastic coinage of the brain, as if the blessed beings which people this gladsome world endured the primal curse and shared the self-inflicted ruin of our race—as if their joyful hearts were ever pressed by sorrow, or responded, in wailing sadness, to the woes of man! Amid the unmeasured wretchedness which springs from human folly, the wan faces of our fellow men pent up in close built cities, the drunkard's hollow eyes, his palsied limbs and tattered garments, with all the ills that vice is heir to, what is more inspiring than to see even a fragment of the face of nature, some little open plot of garden-ground where in spring the blackbird still may sing his evening hymn, or the autumnal redbreast cheerily announce approaching winter. Is there sorrow there, or suffering, save what may spring from some dark spirit in the mind of man—the "immortal rebel!" When Buffon himself, a great interpreter of nature, in spite of all his fitful fancies, yielded up his life to the God who gave it, did the lilied fields of France reflect the sun's warm rays less brightly, or her sylvan choristers welcome with sadder note, the rosy break of the ensuing morn? It would indeed be but a doleful thought if misery such as man so often meets with among human kind, and which

he is therefore prone to picture, were to spread itself from his own sad bosom into the depth of darkly-shaded forests, where so many gorgeous feathered inmates dwell, or among oceans' rocks, amid upheaving waters, or wave-worn caves, or chrystal rivers, with their golden sands.

But we have been led into a longer digression than we intended; and, therefore, resuming our enquiries, proceed at once to the consideration of the numerous tribes of Parrots, by which (case seventy-six) we are now surrounded. The genus, *Psittacus*, according to Linnæus, comprehends the almost innumerable tribe of parrots, lories, parokeets, maccaws, and cockatoos, having the bill curved, thick, and generally sharp-pointed, and the tongue thick, round, and fleshy, the lower larynx being furnished on each side with three peculiar muscles, which probably contribute to the facility with which these birds acquire the articular intonation of the human voice. Their natural food consists of fruits and seeds, in search of which they will climb trees with the greatest facility, suspending themselves indifferently by their hooked-bill or feet. Their voices are harsh and discordant, their forms often elegant, and their plumage usually beautiful. They form, indeed, a magnificent family, abounding in almost every region of the torrid zone, and in the new world extending from the shores of the Ohio to the straits of Magellan, thus presenting a vast and varied assemblage of species from every country of the world, excepting the comparatively cold and cloudy clime of Europe. The modern sub-divisions of this great natural family are too numerous and too

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minute to be here recorded; and we must, therefore, satisfy ourselves with a glance at the varieties here presented to the spectator. There is nobody, we presume, at this enlightened day, that would desire to be edified, under the pretence of popular reading, by oft-told anecdotes of parrots; we shall, therefore, devote the little space we can afford to a consideration of the objects immediately before us.

The *Leadbeater's Cockatoo*, of which a representation is annexed, is indigenous to New Guinea and New Holland, but this peculiar species is, as yet, but ill-defined. They are remarkable for their great docility, and prefer the vicinity of marshy places. The Great Scarlet Maccaw, which is in close proximity to the above, is a most gorgeous bird; and, when in full plumage, measures above three feet in length, including, of course, the tail. The one before us is certainly a sumptuous creature; but, after all, rather too much like a richly-liveried footman—an association, perhaps, somewhat strengthened in our estimation, by its being so often seen as an inhabitant of lordly mansions, and surrounded by other menial bipeds, almost as gorgeous as itself, and equally as soulless. Pursuing our direction in the same way, we arrive at case 104, containing stuffed specimens of the Gallinaceous tribe. These, from their being common, are too generally overlooked; but to us, looking at it with an imaginative eye, they speak with the force of a moralist. What is, indeed, more beautiful than the fond devoted affection of these creatures to their offspring, teaching, in the blindness of instinctive love, a lesson to proud but cold humanity. The Cock of the Woods here depicted, is now utterly extinct, as a wild British species, though once frequent in these islands. Some few are said to be remaining in the pine forests of Scotland, and also in the mountainous parts of Ireland; but this we are not well informed.

The Ostrich, of which an illustration is presented to the reader, is a bird so popularly known, that we need not, if we had the space, which we have not, dilate upon its peculiarities.

It is a native of Africa, where, in the pathless wilds and arid solitudes, it finds a home. Incapacitated by its heaviness for flight, it has recourse to its legs, instead of its wings, for safety; and in this manner it has been known to outstrip in speed the fleetest horse. In Arabia, the Arabs have availed themselves of this bird for securing a vehicle of transit across the Desert, and in this way they can travel for miles at the most rapid speed, without the ostrich either suffering from the weight of a man on its back, or sinking under the fatigue. Perhaps in consequence of this, railroads have not yet been introduced into this country, being considered unnecessary whilst the race of ostriches remain. They are seldom prone to attack, except in self-defence, and lead a passive kind of life. The female lays a number of eggs at a time, which are buried in the sand, and left, generally, for the sun to warm forth into existence. Their height is usually from six to seven feet. The ostrich is amongst birds, what the Cameleopard is amongst animals, being remarkable for the grace and beauty of its form. In the arid and sandy deserts of Arabia, where the eye gazes for miles on only the wide waste and cheerless prospect, without an oasis being found to relieve the monotony of the scene,

hastening the process of incubation, and causing the eggs to break, introducing, as if by magic, a group of new-fledged birds, to rivet the attention of the wayfarer.

In the same case (109), is a most singular speci-

men of the Bustard, the largest of European birds, and the rarest with us. The one in our illustration is the ruffed bustard, remarkable chiefly for the peculiar formation of the breast. Bustards are seldom, if ever, met with in the southern and south-western portions of the British isles; but we remember to have seen several last summer in the county of Norfolk, to which it has long been reported to have been exclusively confined. It is an unwieldy bird, and generally weighs about thirty pounds; its flesh is, however, highly esteemed by epicures.

And now come we to case 114, in which the most remarkable of all is the Trumpeter. This most singular bird, of which there are only two species, belongs to the genus *Phosia* of Linnæus, and is a native chiefly of South America and the Brazils. It is of use there to the natives when domesticated, by its quality of making a peculiarly shrill noise, or "trumpeting," when danger is near. For this purpose, it is often set to guard poultry, and feeding chiefly on serpents, its presence is much sought after.

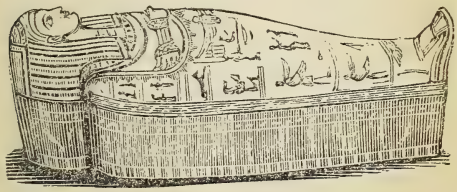
CHAPTER IX.—THE EGYPTIAN ROOM AND MUMMIES.*

It is with a blended feeling of awe and admiration that we approach the Egyptian room. So connected as everything relative to Egypt is with mystery and ingenuity—the light of the past ages shining through the dimmer vista of the present—the mind is lost in the immensity of the subject it designs to grasp, and we are compelled to turn with a half-satisfied feeling from the wonders before us, conscious that they are indicative of more than the enterprise of mankind can reveal, and that, like the Bridge in the Vision of Mirza, which in its nearer portions appeared tolerably entire, but in those more remote, consisted of only broken arches, which gradually disappeared in the impenetrable mist that overhung the vast ocean of time in which it was lost, so the objects which we are about to consider, though seemingly complete, are in reality only a collection of dislocated fragments, the origin of which is lost in that abyss of the elder time of which there exists neither record nor memorial. This room lies to the left at the extremity of the eastern gallery, and contains various Egyptian curiosities, of which by far the most interesting and important are the mummies. Before entering into a description of the mummies themselves it will be as well perhaps to say something of the process of embalming, by which they were prepared. The manner of embalming was this; the brain was scooped out with an iron scoop at the nostrils, and medicaments thrown in to fill up the vacuum; the putrifying matter of the body was then removed, and myrrh, cassia, and other spices, except frankincense, deposited in their stead. This was in order to dry up the humours, and the body was placed in nitre, where it remained soaking for seventy days. It was then wrapped up in bandages of fine linen, and gums to make it adhere as if glued, and so it was delivered to the relatives, entire in all its features, the hair of the eyelids being preserved entire. They used to keep the bodies of their ancestors, thus embalmed, in apartments magnificently adorned, and took great pleasure in beholding them alive, as it were, without any change in their size, features, or complexion. The prices for embalming varied according to the rank of the party embalmed. The highest was a talent, the next twenty *minæ*, and so on decreasing to a very small amount. But

and the body being incased in nitre, grew dry, nothing remaining besides the skin glued upon the bones. For this description of the process of embalming we are indebted to both Heredotus and Diodorus. The former, who is unquestionably the better authority of the two says, (Book II. Section 85) :—" This service is appointed by persons whose art it is to perform the process of embalming as their business. When a dead body is brought to them, they show their patterns of mummies in wood, imitated by sculpture, and the most elaborate of these, they say, is one belonging to *Osiris ;* the second is less costly, and the third is cheapest of all. Having shown these, they enquire in which way the service shall be performed, upon which the parties make their agreement and leave the body for preparation. The interior soft parts being removed, both from the head and from the trunk, the cavities are washed with palm wine and fragrant gums, and partly filled up with myrrh, cassia, and other spices. The whole is then steeped in a solution of soda for 70 days, which is the longest time permitted, and then having been washed, the body is rolled up in bandages of cotton cloth, being first smeared with gum instead of glue. The relations then receiving the body, procure the case for it in a human shape, and inclose the dead body in it. When thus inclosed, they treasure it up in an appropriate building or apartment, and place it against the wall." This appears to have been the most expensive mode of preparation. In order to avoid such expense for those who preferred the middle course, the process was simplified by omitting the actual removal of the interior parts, and introducing a corrosive liquid to melt them down ; the soda, which was generally introduced, thus consumes the flesh so that skin and bone are only remaining when the body is returned to the friends. The third and the most simple process was merely to cleanse the body well both within and without, by means of some vegetable preparations, and keep it in the alkaline solutions for seventy days, without any other precautions. Embalming also appears to have been performed by means of a species of pitch, which was poured into the trunk of the body in a liquid state, through an aperture made on purpose in the right side, but this has been lately considered as apocryphal. The bandaging to which all the Egyptian mummies were subjected, appears to be one of the most remarkable parts of the process. The envelopes are composed

gradually surmounting the whole body. They are applied and interlaced so gradually and accurately that one might readily suppose they were intended to restore to the dry shrivelled body its original form and size. The only difference in the bandages of the different kinds of mummies, is in their greater or less fine texture, being applied on all in nearly the same manner. All the bandages and wrappings that have been examined by the microscope are of linen. The body is at first covered by a narrow dress laced at the back and tied at the throat, or it is all enveloped in one large bandage. The head is covered by a square piece of very fine linen, of which the centre forms a kind of mosque over the features. Five or six such pieces are usually put one over the other, and the last is usually painted or gilded, in representation of the embalmed person. Every part of the body is then seperately invested with several bandages, strongly impregnated with resin. The legs extended side by side and the arms placed over the chest are fixed by other bandages, which surround the whole body, and these last, which are commonly covered with hieroglyphics, are fixed by long, crossed, and very ingeniously applied bands, which complete the envelope. Most of the bodies are placed in this state in the catacombs; those of the rich only being placed in cases which are usually double; the interior being composed of boards, made of several portions of linen glued together, and the exterior cut from a piece of cedar or sycamore wood.

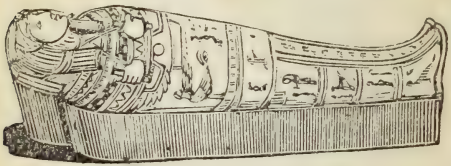
On taking a survey of the numerous bronze instruments of amusement and veneration that lay on the left side of the room, the first conspicuous object that arrests the attention, is the case R R, containing the mummy



of Harsontioff, priest of Amoun, in Thebes, holding vari-

round the loins, and chlamys on their shoulders, emblematical of the enemies of Egypt. Its dimensions are about five feet eight inches in length.

Case U U is the coffin of Penamoun, the incense-bearer of Thebes. The face is of dark polished wood, ornamented with a small square beard. The head is in a rich claft, representing the wings and body of a bird, with two side ornaments; round the neck is a pectoral plate, representing a disked face in a boat. The hands are crossed on the breast, each holding a roll of Papyrus,



and below is the HAT or good demon. Round the sides of the chest, traced in yellow upon a black ground, is a cat grasping a snake; the mummy on its bier with the soul soaring above (an indubitable evidence of the belief of the Egyptians in the immortality of the soul), and in addition to these we find a temple on a mountain, above which are the symbols of east and west, a lion-headed mummied deity holding two swords, a man walking, holding in each hand a star, the judgment scene, a deity with two snaked heads, and the disk of the sun descending below the solar mountain.

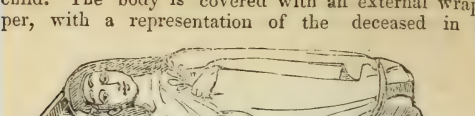
The next in importance may be considered the Case Z Z, containing the mummy of Mautemmen, a female attendant on the worship of Ammon, and most probably a priestess. The body is swathed in such a manner as to exhibit the whole of the form, and it is

mented, others are narrower, and cross from the shoulder to the belt, whilst the arms are swathed with narrow strips like the animal mummies. The back part of the head, and the extremities of the head and feet, are bared, exhibiting the hair and bones.

In the centre of the room, case A A A is the wooden coffin of Cleopatra, daughter of Candace: on the arched part of the cover are judgment scenes before Ra and Osiris, a train of inferior deities seated in porches and holding swords in their hands. Two rows of hawks with human and animal heads; on one side a boat with a disk attached to a snake drawn by four deities. On the other a boat with the disk of the right symbolic eye attached to a snake drawn by three jackals. The *Hat*, the Scarabœus, with extended wings, and the Scarabœus in the boat, with Isis and another deity paying it homage. The interior represents Heaven, surrounded by zodiacal signs, and at the sides of the head are four tortoises. The upper end has the hawk of Ra, and the lower the cow of Athor, seated on a pedestal. On the sides are the twenty-four hours as female figures, twelve on each side, each procession closed by a thirteenth female, doubtless as a personification of the morning and evening star. It is nearly six feet in length, two feet in breadth, and two feet in height. But it must not be considered that the Egyptians directed their attention exclusively to the preservation of the human species; on the contrary, embalming was practised almost as extensively upon some animals as it was on men, particularly on those that they held sacred. The list of mummied animals given by Mr. Pettigrew, includes the lion, wolf, bat, dog, monkey, cat, jackal, fox, hyena, bear, ichneumon, shrew-mouse, deer, goat, sheep, oxen, and calves, hippopotamus, vulture, eagle, ibis, owl, hawk, falcon, crocodile, swallow, goose, toad, adder snake, lizard, carp, pike, and some few other fish, with some insects. Strange to say, some vegetables also have been found embalmed.

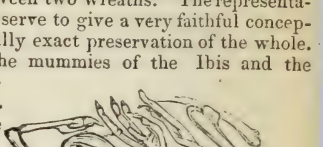
In case D D we find the mummy of part of a bull, remarkable for its perfect preservation during a lapse of two or three thousand years. Most of these animals had cases appropriated to their species; but sometimes they are mixed, and very rarely they are

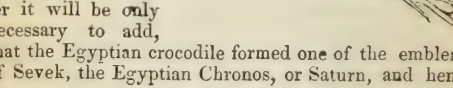
In case B B we meet with a small coffin in a vaulted cover, containing the mummy of a Greco-Egyptian child. The body is covered with an external wrapper, with a representation of the deceased in a



toga; the hair is crowned with a wreath, the feet are in shoes, and the left hand is holding a branch of laurel, whilst the other is raised. On the top of a cover is a viper between two wreaths. The representation here given will serve to give a very faithful conception of the wonderfully exact preservation of the whole.

In cases E E the mummies of the Ibis and the Crocodile are introduced to our notice. The first we spoke of at some length in treating of its ornithological properties, and of the latter it will be only necessary to add, that the Egyptian crocodile formed one of the emblems of Sevek, the Egyptian Chronos, or Saturn, and hence





its deification. The other objects in this room, consisting of ornaments, statues of deities, musical instruments, &c. &c., are many of them deserving close investigation; but the description, or even enumeration of them all, would soon become as tedious as it would be found unnecessary. Concluding then, as we commenced, with a description of mummies, it may be mentioned that, in some situations, the conditions of the soil and atmosphere, by the rapidity with which they permit the drying of the animal tissues, are alone sufficient for the preservation of the body in the form of a mummy. This

from Caxamarca by General Paroissier. Like most of them it is in a sitting posture, with the knees almost touching the chin, and the hands by the sides of the face. It is quite dry and hard. The features are distorted, but nearly perfect, though the hair has fallen off. The Peruvian mummies do not appear to have been subjected to any particular preparation; the dry and absorbent earth in which they are placed being sufficient to prevent them putrifying. M. Humboldt found the bodies of both Spaniards and Peruvians lying on former fields of battle, dried and preserved in the open air. In the deserts of Africa the preservation of the body is secured by burying it in the hot sand, and even in Europe soils are sometimes met with, in which the bodies undergo a slight process of drying, and then remain almost unalterable, even on exposure to the air and moisture. There is a vault at Toulouse, in which a vast number of bodies that had been buried were found, after many years, dry, and without a trace of the effects of putrefaction; and in the vaults of St. Michael's Church, Dublin, the bodies are similarly preserved. In both cases putrefaction is prevented by the constant absorption of the moisture from the atmosphere, and, through its medium, from the body, by the calcareous soil in which the vaults are dug. It would far exceed our limits or intention to go into lengthened inquiries on the subject; but we must give it as our opinion, that if European climates were more favourable, it is probable that, with the present knowledge of materials for hardening the tissues, such as pyroligneous acid, corrosive sublimate, arsenic, salts of iron, &c. &c., mummies might be prepared equal to the Egyptian in permanence, and superior to them in the preservation of their forms.